PRO-CONVENTION NUMBER

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Of the Church · By the Church · For the Church

Luther League Review

The · Official · Organ · of the Luther · League · of America

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BUFFALO, N. Y.

Where the Thirteenth National Convention of the Luther League of America will be held August 27, 28, 29.

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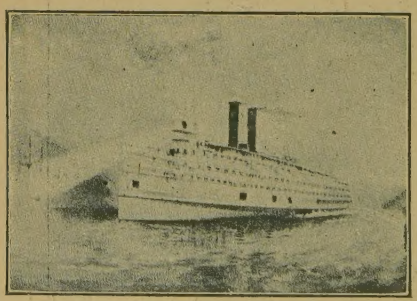

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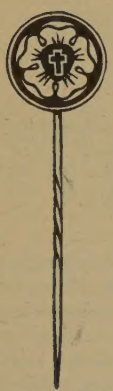

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NOTICE

Due to the new War Tax which became effective October 4, 1917, all invoices of Jewelry will bear the 3 per cent. tax. This tax must be figured before the cash discount is deducted, and is not subject to any discount.

ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO

Luther League Review

318-326 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York City

Luther League Of America

"Of the Church, By the Church, For the Church"

Official Call for the Thirteenth National Convention

Buffalo, N. Y., August 27, 28, 29, 1918

THE Executive Committee of the Luther League of America has accepted the invitation of the Buffalo District of the Luther League of New York and the Federation of Men's Bible Classes to hold the THIRTEENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION in Buffalo, New York, August 27, 28, 29, 1918.

REPRESENTATION.

Any society of whatever name, connected with a Lutheran congregation or a Lutheran institution of learning, and District and State organizations whose admission shall have been recommended by the Committee on Credentials, are entitled to membership with representations as follows: Each society admitted to membership shall be entitled to one delegate, each District League to three delegates, and each State or Territorial organization to ten delegates. Delegates to the Convention are expected and required to present properly certified credentials. The credentials should be signed by the President and Secretary of each organization, whether State, District or Local League. Delegates will be asked to pay a REGISTRATION FEE of $1.00.

CREDENTIALS.

Credential blanks for delegates should be secured at once by State, District and Local Officers from the General Secretary. All credentials should be filled out in duplicate, one part being sent to the General Secretary and the other part retained by the delegate for presentation to the Credential Committee at Buffalo. Uniform blank forms will be sent upon request. Credentials should be sent to the General Secretary not later than August 1st.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The arrangement of the program is in charge of a sub-committee of the Executive Committee. An announcement of same will be made in the near future in the REVIEW.

THE LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW will furnish official information each month relative to the Convention and after the Convention will publish a CONVENTION NUMBER containing full reports of the proceedings.

Subscriptions should be made now to secure the pro-Convention Number of the REVIEW and also the CONVENTION NUMBER.

Particulars as to hotels and other local arrangements will be furnished in due season by the local Convention committee.

The last Convention at Buffalo was a great one. The local committee claim that the coming one will be greater.

Arrange your vacation to include August 27, 28, 29, and spend it at Buffalo.

By direction of the Executive Committee.

C. T. A. ANDERSON,
President,
Chicago, Ill.

HARRY HODGES,
General Secretary,
838 Drexel Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

Of the Church - By the Church - For the Church

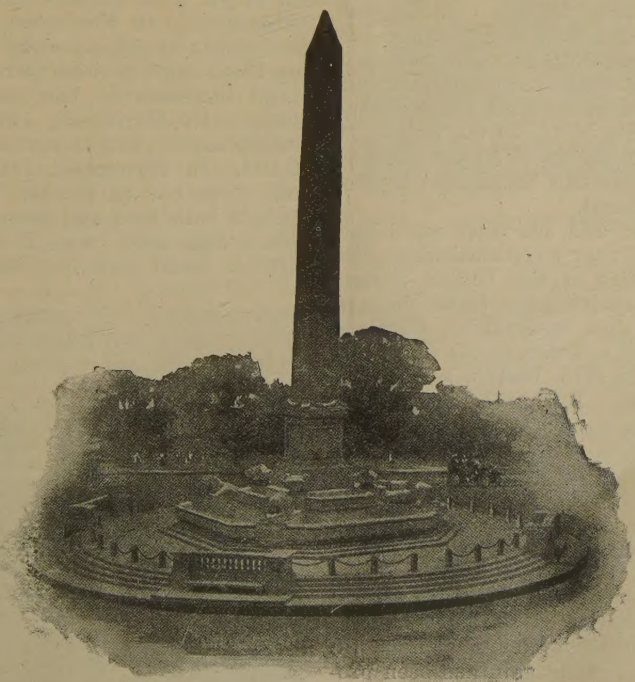
Luther League Review

Buffalo, the Convention City

BY H. B. SAUNDERS, CONVENTION COMMISSIONER.

BUFFALO, the city in which this year's convention of the Luther League is to be held, like every other American city has its own peculiar individuality and history. Its location at the easterly terminus of navigation on the Great Lakes and beginning of the water level route across New York State to Albany and thence southward to tidewater, inevitably made it a city of commerce, and from the days of the beginning of the development of inland America, during the greater part of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, Buffalo was preeminently a commercial city. Completely destroyed in 1812, the present city represents the growth of a single century, a comparatively short period in the history of cities.

During a few years previous to 1900 Buffalo had made some industrial gains and was slowly emerging from a community in which commerce was the paramount occupation. During the time which marked the development of the great Western grain fields, much of this vast golden stream of



McKINLEY MONUMENT, NIAGARA SQUARE, BUFFALO.

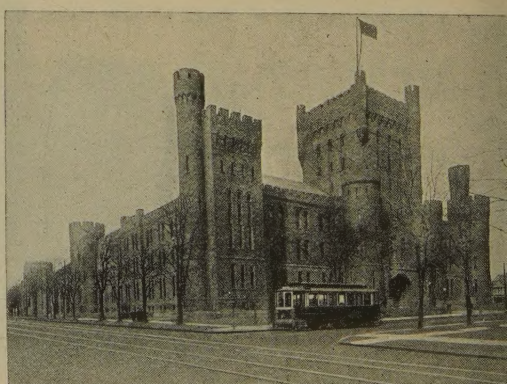
MAIN STREET, BUFFALO.

grain flowed through Buffalo in constantly increasing volume, and today a large portion of the wheat which is being sent abroad for the support of our own troops and our allies is brought in great steel vessels to the port of Buffalo, where it is elevated in a group of great structures, including one of the largest elevators in the whole world, to be sent by rail and canal to the seaboard. In the early years of this traffic the Erie Canal was used to a considerable extent in forwarding grain, but this waterway was outgrown by the necessities of modern commerce, and the Empire State has expended $150,000,000 in the construction of a barge canal, which was thrown open to traffic this summer. This great canal not only will afford cheap transit for grain to New York City, but also will open up advantages for the transportation of manufactured products of all kinds, it being possible to ship in 10,000 ton units. It is believed that a saving of 50 per cent. or better on rail rates can be effected by the use of this new canal.

The great war, and our later participation in it, very nearly revolutionized the industrial activities of the United States, and in no community were these changes more noticeable than in Buffalo. Previous to the outbreak of the war, in the five years between 1909 and 1915, Buffalo had gained 475 new industries. During the same period the combined net gain of twenty-five cities having a population of 100,000 or more was 924 new industries, or less than twice the number gained by Buffalo alone. In the same period ten cities with populations in excess of 250,000 gained 481 new industries, or only six more than Buffalo alone. This is the latest period for which accurate statistical information is available.

Since the outbreak of the war it is known that Buffalo's industrial gain has been proportionately much greater, and whereas the city had 2,223 industries in 1915, we know that there are now upwards of 2,500 industries in the city and that there has been a still greater increase in the number of employees. A partial disclosure of Buffalo's tremendous gain since the outbreak of the war is contained in a report of the Statistical Bureau of the New York State Industrial Commission for 1917. This bureau made an analysis of conditions in Buffalo and environs, comparing conditions of Buffalo, Blasdell, Cheektowaga, Depew, Lancaster, Lackawanna, North Tonawanda, Tonawanda and Sloan, which in every sense other than political are a part of Buffalo.

The results obtained indicate that the factory employees of the Buffalo district have profited considerably by the general increase of activity that has marked all the manufacturing undertakings of the Empire State. From the beginning of the war in April, and more especially since July, 1917, this city and adjacent villages experienced each month more activity than during the preceding month. All former records as to the number of employees and volume of wages paid dwindle in comparison with the figures for each successive month. Compared with November, 1914, Buffalo in November, 1917, increased its number of employees 70 per cent., whereas in the State as a whole the increase was but 30 per cent. Compared with November, 1915, Buffalo in November, 1917, increased its number of employees 28 per cent. During these same periods there have also been large increases in the total paid out in wages. In November, 1914, the average weekly earnings in factories in Buffalo were $14.13. In November, 1917, this average had increased to $22.26. These increases include both men and women in shops and offices and show that Buffalo paid from $1.75 to $4.50 more per week to the indi-



75TH REGIMENT ARMORY, N. Y. GUARD.

vidual workers than did establishments in the State as a whole.

The workers of Buffalo may be said to be engaged primarily in occupations calling for skill, precision and training. Three-fourths of the workers for whom reports were filed are employed in the manufacture of metal goods, machinery and chemicals. The manufacturers of metal products and machinery employed the greater number of people. It is on account of the skill and training required that the employees in the metals and machinery occupations received the high wages quoted above. The metals and machinery group of industries employs about two-thirds of Buffalo's wage earners. Due to war contracts in the manufacture of articles needed directly or indirectly for the successful conduct of the war, many plants in this group made phenomenal progress. Factories were operated to capacity with night shifts and in many cases additional plants were built to accommodate the extra workers.

These conditions have brought home to Buffalo more clearly than ever before the industrial possibilities of the Niagara frontier and there is no contemplation of any backward step at the end of the war. It is confidently believed that within a comparatively short period of time the whole Niagara frontier from the falls along the river and through the Tonawandas to Buffalo and southward to include Lackawanna and along the lake shore will be one vast industrial city. The basis of this belief is a knowledge that almost unlimited hydro-electric power is obtainable from Niagara River and steps are already under way to double the present production of this power without increasing the diversion of waters from Niagara River, at present allowed by international agreement between the United States and Canada. It is believed that new treaties can be negotiated without difficulty and that a much greater percentage of potential power of the great volume of water flowing through the Niagara River can be obtained than at present. The needs of industry may even demand the surrender of the scenic beauties of the falls and gorge to economic needs, and the day may come when all the water is diverted from the American and Horseshoe falls to power tubes and turned back for scenic effects on Sundays and holidays.

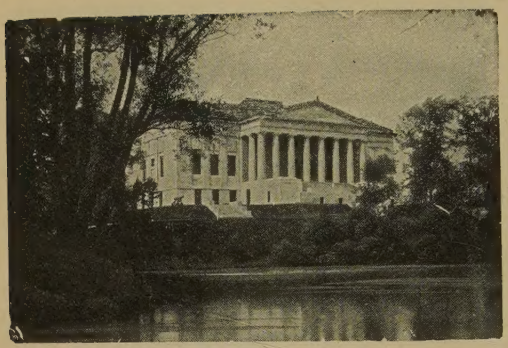
The first necessity of a man without capital is to find employment, his capital being the creative ability of his hands or head. Because the large cities have offered the most opportunities they have drained the country districts of a large part of their best manhood and have grown mightily. It is hard to find a man who does not appreciate pure air and good fare which are the distinguishing features of living in the country, but rural districts offer only a limited amount of employment and the workers are, usually, poorly paid. Chances of advancement are limited, while in the city a man's gain is restricted only by his capacity and willingness.

Prominent among the cities which have made rapid strides in the past decade is Buffalo, and a newly awakened civic spirit is behind the assertion of that city that it affords unlimited opportunity for every one, pleasant surroundings, good living conditions and friendliness. Buffalo boasts of ideal living conditions. It is not a tenement house city, homes of this sort being almost unknown. Instead, the workers are housed in comfortable cottages, two-family

SHELTON SQUARE, BUFFALO.

and single houses, with light and air around them, and asphalt paved streets predominate. It is possible to keep such a street much cleaner than stone or brick, and public health is thus protected. An abundance of good water is supplied at the lowest possible cost to all the inhabitants of the city.

Its splendid park system, which is always maintained in the pink of condition, is made a real playground for the people instead of grass plots on which nobody is permitted to step. The several parks have baseball diamonds, golf courses, tennis courts, lawn bowling greens, and provisions are made for all the recognized sports, including boating, canoeing, and ice skating and tobagganing in the winter time. Crowds of 75,000 and 100,000 people are frequently seen at the ball games in these parks. Lake Erie and the Niagara River



HISTORICAL BUILDING, BUFFALO.

afford unexcelled opportunities for aquatic sports, and bathing pools and bath houses are provided on their shores by the municipality for the use of the public.

Buffalo was the first city in the United States to operate free public baths and now has several of them. Public hospitals and semi-public institutions, partly supported by the city, are ample for the care of the sick. Buffalo was the first city to adopt the Rollier treatment for tuberculosis and created a great hospital in the hills southwest from the city for the cure of this dreaded disease.

In the past decade the city has practically rebuilt its school system, erecting five great high schools, modern in construction and equipment, and including a technical high school. Also a large number of new grammar schools have been constructed and within a very few years the entire material equipment of the department will have been rebuilt.

Buffalo has invested many millions of dollars in asphalt paved streets and finds them a splendid asset because of their cleanliness. The residence section of the city, with practically every street paved with asphalt and lined with great elms and maples, compares, as a whole, very favorably with the finest vistas which any city can exhibit.

Points of Interest About Buffalo

BY H. B. SAUNDERS.

FOR visitors whose itineraries do not permit long lake trips there are opportunities at Buffalo of making short water journeys up to fifty miles in length. In view of the fact that many of the annual visitors to Buffalo live inland, these water trips are unusually popular. On the north shore of Lake Erie in Canada are typical beach resorts of the best kind, which are reached from Buffalo by regular scheduled trips of some of the largest excursion steamers on the Great Lakes. The charges for these excursions are nominal, and in view of the fact that no liquor is permitted to be sold or possessed in Canada, the resorts on the Canadian side of the lake and river are especially popular throughout the summer season for women and children. The excursion season to these resorts extends from May to September. Other boat trips can be made down Niagara River around Grand Island and stopping at various resorts on this island, which is the largest body of water-locked land in fresh waters in the United States.

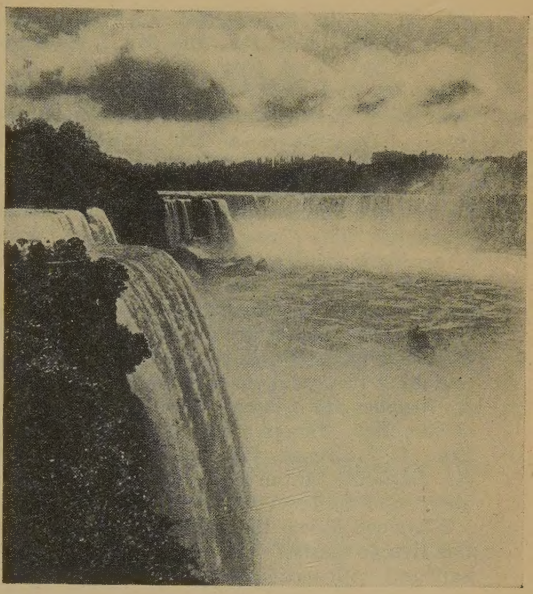
At Buffalo the Niagara River has its source and flows northward from Lake Erie, impressive for its width, depth and silent, resistless current, as well as for the beauty of the country through which it flows—the United States on one side and Canada on the other.

This frontier of two great nations, unmarked by gun or fortification of any kind and maintained in peace and security for upward of one hundred years, constitutes historic ground. On both sides of Niagara River, throughout its entire length, were fought some of the hardest contested battles of the War of 1812, and these historic places are marked by monuments, parks and suitably inscribed tablets.

Twenty miles from Buffalo the current of Niagara River quickens, in the upper reaches of the rapids, and the waters of

ENTRANCE TO BUFFALO HARBOR.

the Great Lakes go rushing and plunging to the brink of the Falls, to tumble 162 feet into the marvelous Gorge below. From there they dash, roar and seethe through the lower rapids, to the quiet of the river beyond Lewiston, whence they flow into Lake Ontario on the way to the sea. This wonderful demonstration of the forces of Nature must be seen to be appreciated, and the visitor in Buffalo has only to step aboard a train or trolley car at any time and be whisked to the world-famous wonderland of Falls, Whirlpool and Gorge. Beautiful, natural parks are maintained on both sides of the Falls by the State of New York and by the Canadian Government. Trolley cars carry tourists across the Upper Steel Arch Bridge into Victoria Park, down the river on the brink of the great cliffs, across again at Lewiston to the river level and then climb back through the Gorge on the American side, a ride unrivaled in all the world. There is no charge for admission to the parks on either side of the Falls.



NIAGARA FALLS.

Luther League of America

Thirteenth Convention, at Buffalo, August 27, 28, 29

THE Lutherans of Buffalo are preparing to extend to the Luther League of America a hearty welcome. The city, the churches, the institutions, the homes and hearts—all are wide open—and Buffalo Lutherans look to see such a gathering of the sons and daughters of our dear Church in the Queen City of the Lakes as shall open the eyes of the citizens to the greatness of the Lutheran Church in numbers, in purity of doctrine and in the love and devotion of her children. The Thirteenth Biennial Convention will convene in Holy Trinity Church, August 27, 28 and 29. The greeting and hospitality of the convention city will be characteristic of Lutheran heartiness and liberality. The prime object, however, is the convention itself, and delegates and visitors can aid in the success of the convention by manifesting an interest in the strengthening and upbuilding of our Lutheran Church and rendering her efficient service.

Program

The program committee have been at work for some time, and their work has been almost completed. Something has been prepared that will satisfy the most exacting. It is needless to say that it will be in keeping with those of former conventions. The convention topic will be:

Patriotism

Our Church—Our Country

This theme is based on portions of Article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession.

Sessions

The opening session of the convention will be held Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, in Holy Trinity Church, Rev. F. A. Kahler, D. D., pastor, Rev. Sheerer, associate pastor. Holy Trinity is on Main Street. Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, President of the Luther League of America, will preside. All business sessions of the convention will be held in this church, which is the mother of English Lutheranism in Buffalo.

The convention sermon will be preached by Rev. E. F. Krauss, D. D., president of the Chicago Theological Seminary.

The morning business sessions will open at 9 o'clock with the morning suffrages and song service, and the afternoon sessions will open at 2 o'clock with the evening suffrages. The first morning session will be devoted to the president's biennial report, and besides routine business there will be two sectional conferences. These conferences

will be in charge of Rev. L. C. Manges, D. D., Harrisburg, Pa., and Mr. I. S. Runyon, of New York City.

Among the topics for discussion are: "The New Task of the Christian Congregation," "The State, a Moral Responsible Agent," "Lutheranism in American Liberty," "How Can the League Best Help the Church?" "Christ, the Leaguer's Model Worker," "The True Patriotic Spirit" and "Our National Heritage."

There will be a number of sectional conferences and Miss Brenda Melhouse, Philadelphia, will give a demonstration of Junior Luther League work.

Among the speakers will be Rev. Prof. A. R. Wendtz, Gettysburg; Rev. W. G. Boomhower, Hon. James Gear, New York City; Rev. A. L. Benze, Rev. William Freas, of the National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare, and others.

Elmwood Music Hall has been secured for the Grand Rally. This is a very spacious hall and will accommodate about 3,000 people.

Boy Scouts will meet the trains.

Convention Headquarters

The Hotel Cheltenham will be the headquarters for the convention. It is located at 234 Franklin Street. Besides this hotel, there are a number of other hotels, but the Cheltenham will make special rates to the delegates and visitors to the convention. The following are the Buffalo hotels and rates:

	Single	*Double*	
Cheltenham, 234 Franklin St. (American Plan)	$3.50	$5.00	
With bath	4.00	6.00	
Lafayette, Clinton and Washington (European Plan)	2.00	3.50	up
With bath	2.50	4.00	"
Statler, Washington and Swan (European Plan)	2.50	4.00	"
With bath	3.00	4.50	"
Iroquois, Main and Eagle (European Plan)	2.00	3.00	"
With bath	2.50	4.50	"
Lenox, 140 North St. (European Plan)	1.50	2.50	
Markeen, Main and Utica (European Plan)	2.00	3.00	
Men's Hotel, Pearl and Genesee (Y. M. C. A.)	.50	.75-1.50	

Registration

Delegates and visitors will register at Holy Trinity Church. A registration fee of $1 will be asked.

Credentials

The convention is a delegate body. Delegates should present their credentials upon their arrival to the credential committee at the bureau of registration. Be sure to have your credentials. Credentials must be signed by the president and secretary of the League. *Delegates to the convention are expected and required to present properly certified credentials.*

For credentials for delegates application should be made at once to Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary of the Luther League of America, 838 Drexel Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa. All credentials should be filled out, one part being sent to Mr. Harry Hodges, 838 Drexel Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa., August 1, 1918. The other portion of the credential, properly filled out and signed, must be presented by the delegate to the registration committee at Buffalo.

Information

Correspondents can address their letters for information regarding the convention to Mr. L. T. Henrich, 322 William Street, Buffalo. Requests for hotel reservation should be sent to Mr. Henrich ten days prior to the convention dates.

The evening meetings will begin at 8 o'clock. Ushers will not conduct any persons to seats during any number of the program.

All notices for the chair should be handed to the presiding officer a half hour before adjournment. Promiscuous announcements from the floor are not allowed. All announcements, except those of the pastor of the convention church or announcements by the chairman of the local general committee, should be written out and handed to the presiding officer.

Luther League Supplies

Luther League supplies and badges will be on sale in one of the rooms of the church. Leave your subscriptions there for the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and the *Luther League Topics*, official publications of the Luther League of America. Special copies of the Convention Number of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, containing a full report of the convention, can be secured at ten cents per copy by leaving your order with those in charge of the Luther League supplies. Order at once if you wish a complete report of the proceedings of this most important convention. The supply department will only be open before and at the close of each session of the convention.

Why Send Delegates to the Buffalo Convention?

It will give them a vision of the opportunities for service.

It will inspire them to do service in the home church.

It will show them what to do and how to do it.

It will bring one hundred fold returns to your church in interest and service.

It will guarantee future leadership in your church.

Advantages of Sending Your Full Quota of Delegates

It will insure team work at the convention.

It will insure team work on their return.

Why Their Expenses Should Be Paid

Choicest delegates may then be sent regardless of their own ability to pay expenses.

Delegates will make best use of time at convention.

They will feel obligated to do service on returning.

How This Money May Be Raised

Ask one or two wealthy church members for the entire amount.

Get the League to bear the expense from its treasury. Get several persons to give $1 each.

How to Get Delegates to Go

Attach great significance to being sent as a delegate.

Work up general interest before choice is made.

Determine all possible candidates.

Have them elected at a public meeting.

After this, concentrate your energies on them.

Depend principally on personal contact and persuasion.

Have delegates commit themselves by public statement.

Foresee all their possible hindrances and remove them.

A Tremendous Responsibility Rests on You

You are helping choose the future leaders of your church.

The present world crisis demands your utmost efforts.

Buffalo's Federation of Lutheran Men's Bible Classes

BY DR. LOUIS J. KNELL.

THE fact that the Federation has combined with the Luther Leagues of Buffalo to act as the hosts for the coming National Luther League Convention makes this organization of interest to Luther Leaguers.

This organization, which is only a little over a year old, has brought upon itself and the Lutheran Churches of Buffalo many wonderful blessings. In May, 1915, there were only three Men's Bible Classes—at Holy Trinity, Concordia, and St. John's, respectively. Now there are thirteen Men's Classes and three Junior Men's Bible Classes, and six Women's Bible Classes. The total registration of the Men's Classes is about 1,550, and that of the Women's Classes is nearly 500. Every one of our Lutheran Churches except one now has adult Bible Classes.

The Federation had a Quadri-Centennial Rally for the Men's Bible Classes last March, and although it was the day when Billy Sunday held his farewell meeting, over 1,200 men were crowded into Holy Trinity Church to hear Hon. E. Augustus Miller, of Philadelphia, the General Council's Home Mission Board treasurer, speak on "The Reformation and the Spread of Biblical Knowledge."

The Federation has also been instrumental in organizing several Bible classes in nearby Evangelical and Reformed Churches, and also formed a flourishing one in a colored Methodist Church. One of the Evangelical classes organized by the president had a rally meeting of 201 men in less than six months after it started.

The next step is to form classes in nearby towns. The first Extension Rally of the Federation was at St. John's Church in Gardenville, where it is hoped that a promising class will result as a consequence of the pilgrimage of about fifteen automobiles loaded with Federation workers. The good work will be continued during the coming year.

Holy Trinity has about 450 men, St. John's 350, Christ and Concordia about 100 each. The other classes run from 25 to 75 men. St. John's in the Reformation attendance campaign last fall broke the record by adding to the class over 100 men. An idea of what these classes are doing for the Church may be formed from the fact that St. John's alone reported last December that

it had raised up to that time $1,211.51, giving to the Church and Sunday School $518.53, to the Missions $176.51, and to the other Lutheran institutions and charities $447.09. The class is giving loyal support to its Young Men's Society in paying off $2,500 indebtedness incurred by installing bowling alleys in the basement of the schoolhouse.

The Federation has given liberally through its army and navy to meet the spiritual and material wants of over 100 of its men who have been called into the war service of our country.

During the past year the Federation has been instrumental in conducting five large mass meetings in celebration of the Quadricentennial of the Reformation, one by the men, one by the women, one by all the Sunday Schools, and two by general assembling of all the congregations in the convention halls.

The Federation is interested in bringing the Sunday Schools of Buffalo together into a union, and for that purpose held an institute and conference of all the Bible Class members and Sunday School workers. To this were invited as speakers Mr. Harry Hodges, the League's National Secretary, and Mr. William R. Stackel, of Rochester, chairman of the Lutheran Committee on Sunday School work and editor of the Sunday School Standard. It was one of the largest gatherings of Lutheran Sunday School workers ever held in Buffalo.

It is hoped it will lead to the formation of not only a Sunday School Teachers' Union, but also a Teachers' Training Class.

The Federation will take active participation in the proposed formation of a Confederation of all the Adult Bible Classes in the city and will help the movement to place a Bible Class in every Church in the city. It will also do what it can to support the proposed Community Sunday School Teachers' Training College.

Last, but not least, the Federation is interested in making the National Luther League Convention a success. It is hoped that all Leaguers coming to Buffalo will visit the Bible Classes and go away inspired to carry this movement into every Lutheran Church on the continent.

Mention also should be made of the fact that the Federation helped found the Daily Vacation Bible Schools in Buffalo, and is fostering their extension to the other Churches in Buffalo. In 1916, the first one was opened in St. John's schoolhouse, and in 1917 Holy Trinity joined St. John's. The object is to bring idle children, idle Churches, and idle college students under the wholesome influence of the open Bible.

The officers of the Federation are: President, Dr. Louis J. Knell, Bible Class leader at St. John's and Church of the Reformation; vice-president, Mr. Otto E. Becker; secretary, Mr. Henry E. Harris; and treasurer, Mr. Philip H. Helffenstein.

FIRST UNITED STATES FLAG MADE BY LUTHERANS

Whose is the honor of having made our first national emblem? Everyone will say Betsy Ross. It appears, however, that this particular honor can not be given to Miss Ross alone. No official or authentic record of the event was ever made, but by common consent it has been ascribed to Betsy Ross. Out of the dim past we have what may prove to be actual facts.

The other day while reading a number of old volumes of the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, I chanced upon a genealogical record of one Goran Kyn, one of the first Swedes to settle on the Delaware. This record, which has been compiled by Gregory Keen, a descendant, states that Miss Sarah Austin, a great-great-granddaughter of Kyn, with other ladies of the Gloria Dei Church at Philadelphia, made the first flag under the direction of the Marine Committee after the pattern adopted by Congress, June 14, 1777. It was presented by the ladies to John Paul Jones, who hoisted it on his ship, the Ranger. This flag was rendered historic, because it was the flag that received the first salute granted the Star Spangled Banner in Europe. It was flown in the first action between the Ranger and the Drake, and later between the Serapis and the Bon Homme Richard.

From this it appears that the honor of having made the first flag belongs, not to Betsy Ross alone, but to the ladies of the Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church.

May we, descendants of a later immigration from the Northland, be equally steadfast in our devotion to the flag of our country. And as our ancestors of the Revolutionary days fought valiantly for its defense, so may we prove our devotion and loyalty in these days of sore distress.—*C. A. Gunderson, in Lutheran Companion.*

Every person born again is a believer; every believer is a person who has been born again.

Luther League of New York State

Twenty-fifth Annual Convention at Brooklyn, May 21-23

BY MISS MARY ST. JOHN.

THE 1918 convention of the Luther League of New York State marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of a League, which blazed the trail for the whole Luther League movement. This first State League had its inception in Utica in May 29-30, 1893, with the Hon. E. F. Eilert as its first president.

The intervening years have been made memorable by many changes in personnel of leadership, in administration procedure, and in objective direction.

Whatever of success or glory has been achieved, must, however, be attributed to the rich heritage, bequeathed by our consecrated founders, those men of vision, namely, the high and noble standards of "brotherly co-operation," "education in religion," and "loyalty to the truth." These standards are admirably calculated to school us for the testing time in which we live. They show us, who stand at the base of the far flung battle line, by what great principles we must be actuated if we would have the right kind of a new world ready for our boys who come back.

Opening Session, Tuesday Evening

The Liturgical Service was conducted by Rev. M. Luther Canup, the Convention Chaplain.

In behalf of the District Luther League of Brooklyn and Long Island, cordial greetings were extended by its president, Rev. Harold S. Miller.

Mr. Louis A. Wilke, president of the Luther League of New York State, responded to these greetings, saying:

The kind and hearty welcome extended to us as Luther Leaguers of the Empire State is sincerely appreciated.

Twenty-five years ago in the Church of the Redeemer in Utica was held the first convention, with a registration of 110. Since then the Luther League has steadily grown until last year we had a registration of 236, the largest we have ever had. Many noteworthy things have been accomplished, and we trust will be accomplished in the future.

Again we thank you for your kind reception, and we trust the influence will linger long after we have returned to our homes.

The convention sermon was delivered by Rev. W. H. Stutts, D. D., of Brooklyn. He spoke as follows on "Man's Extremity, the Church's Opportunity." He took for the basis of his sermon, Luke 15, part of verses 17 and 22. "He came to himself—Bring forth the best robe."

The things that man does are the things that never satisfy. We find this age pleasure-mad. Even now when we might say the nation is bleeding at the very heart, it is not an uncommon thing to find every theater and every playhouse packed to the doors. Everywhere we find men paying an enormous price for the things that the world has to give and through which they think they will find happiness and peace. The time comes when they will come to themselves just as the prodigal son did. We find that all around us, even among our associates and business relationships, there are those who are just as foolish as the prodigal son, who are striving after something that the world cannot give. When they are in that condition, frequently they awake and find that they are in need of something more than they have ever thought of. You and I are to give them, not in a condescending way or with a degree of charitableness, the best that we have. Some say that the prodigal was brought to his senses by his hunger. What difference does that

DELEGATES TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION.

make? You and I are not to argue with him any more than the father did; simply give him the best that we have, just as the father brought out the best robe. You and I find these conditions existing today, and as members of the great Church of Luther, there are opportunities everywhere, especially opportunities ready for young men and also young women. And if you and I have received the things that the Church has to give, we will be able to minister to the world. There is no better way to minister than through the channels of the Luther League of our own Church. Every member has a great mission and will be required to give an account of his stewardship. There is a splendid opportunity given to us today to do something for others and to preach a message of love to a sin-cursed world.

The choir of Christ Lutheran Church, Anton W. Droge, organist, rendered as special music Woodward's "The Radiant Morn" and Harker's "Rejoice Ye in the Lord."

After the closing Vesper Service the convention was tendered a reception. The District League of Brooklyn and Long Island proved a delightful host. A volunteer orchestra of the convention Church discoursed sweet music. A pleasant surprise was in store for the guests, when they were presented with twenty-five beautiful Killarney roses and a birthday cake crowned with twenty-five candles. President Wilke fittingly accepted this silver jubilee token.

Second Session, Wednesday Morning

The convention proceeded, after devotional services, to the consideration of business, consisting of reports of officers and committees.

President Louis A. Wilke presented the following report:

It is with a feeling of great responsibility that we render this twenty-fifth anniversary report. As we look back over the twenty-five years we are astonished at the growth, prosperity and activity of the League. Much has been done, but twenty-five years is also a long time and we cannot help wondering whether we have done *all* that could have been accomplished in these twenty-five years. As we look ahead twenty-five years seems even longer and we feel as though we could accomplish many wonderful things if we but will work in unity and faithfulness under the guidance of the Almighty.

During these twenty-five years the State organization has had nine presidents. It has been my privilege to serve four years. Of the last year we submit the following report:

During the past year your president sent circular letters to all Leagues in the State. The replies received showed that all Leagues were working hard and greatly enjoyed their work. Your president also kept in touch with all district presidents. From the replies he could gather all districts were growing, in fact each district was striving to be the largest. The president wishes to express his appreciation of the consideration with which his letters were received and answered by the officers and chairmen of committees. The various State officers and committees have been faithful in the discharge of their duties and gave the president every needed assistance.

In December I received a communication from Rev. Michler to arrange an itinerary for Miss Melhouse to tour our State and illustrate Junior League work. I wrote to all district presidents to try and arrange a meeting for Miss Melhouse and to correspond with Rev. Michler. Have heard from one district, the Mohawk Valley, that Miss Melhouse gave her lecture in Utica and that it would result in organizing Junior Leagues. May I suggest that the Junior League work be given more attention and where there is an opportunity Junior Leagues should be organized.

Your president wishes to compliment the excellent work done by the Jubilee Fund committee, especially its chairman, Mr. Dittmer, who deserves a great deal of praise for the tactful way in which he wrote all Leagues and for the amount of money secured.

At the January meeting of the Buffalo District the Luther League of St. Peter's Church of North Tonawanda, an Ohio Synod church, applied and was admitted to membership.

On January 11 your president received a resignation from Mr. W. Eck, of Albany, as chairman of the Eastern extension committee, stating that he had been in an auto accident and could not give the extension committee the required amount of time it should have. I was rather undecided whether to accept or not, but after due consideration I wrote Mr. Eck that I would. I wrote immediately to Mrs. Frank Miller, the very active worker of the Brooklyn and Long Island District, that I had appointed her as chairman of this committee to succeed Mr. Eck.

On January 13 the president had the honor of sending greetings to Gillead Luther League, Center Brunswick, Mohawk Valley District, the occasion being a sort of graduating service for eleven members who had completed the Luther League Reading Course and received their diplomas. I believe this is the only League in the State which has so many graduates of the Reading Course.

Your president sent greetings to St. John's Luther League, Syracuse, which on February 24 celebrated its thirtieth anniversary.

On March 22 a communication was received from Rev. L. M. Kuhns, Literature Secretary of the Luther League of America, asking for assistance in securing the names of all Lutheran soldiers and sailors in our State. Communication was immediately opened with all district officers urging them to co-operate. Let me suggest that all delegates take this home and see that the names of all boys in the army or navy be sent to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW at an early date.

Your president, as usual, sent greetings to all District Leagues in convention assembled.

Our worthy secretary, Miss St. John, during the latter part of February visited Brooklyn and New York. During her stay she visited several Leagues and was given an opportunity to address those visited. She tried to induce the Leagues to take up the Luther League Reading Course. Miss St. John certainly deserves a great deal of credit for her visit to Brooklyn.

As to our literature, it would hardly be necessary to impress upon your minds the importance of our own publications, especially our *Topics* and the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, and where not already in use we would urge the value of same. A splendid reading course is provided for use in our societies and every local should purchase a set of books.

The Buffalo District will have the honor of entertaining the Luther League of America August 27-28-29. Let me urge all Leaguers assembled here to influence their Leagues to send delegates to Buffalo. May I suggest that the convention here assembled elect their full quota of delegates to represent our State at the thirteenth biennial convention?

Your president makes the following recommendations, viz.:

That all local and district Leagues be requested to remit their annual dues and per capita tax on or before May 1 of each year, in order that the State treasurer may be able to close his books and make a complete report at the annual convention.

That the corresponding secretary of all local Leagues and district Leagues furnish the State President with quarterly reports concerning their activities in order that he may be informed at first hand about the work in general.

Owing to lack of sufficient funds the work of the extension committee has been somewhat retarded, making the committee do most of the work by correspondence. I wish it were possible to have more done by personal visitation. I would therefore suggest that this convention vote a sum of money toward the extension work.

Again I must urge that all local Leagues aid at once in making possible the publication of the Revised Hand Book by subscribing for the same in advance.

May I suggest that the treasurer be instructed to have a statement of finances printed and in turn mail one to each League in the State, requesting them to read it at their meetings and urge them to act accordingly?

While we are enjoying our excellent program let us also remember our boys who have gone to serve their country on land and sea in this time of the world war. Our fondest hopes and prayers arise that this cruel war may soon be brought to a victorious end and that the purpose of God may speedily be realized in this dread conflict and our young men again return to us in the health, strength and vigor of their manhood to take up the work among us where they have left off.

In closing my term of office I wish to thank the officers and committees for their faithful services during the year, and trust that your new officers may receive the full, hearty and undivided support in the coming year that the Leagues may grow and prosper better than ever.

Mr. Clarence C. Dittmer, Corresponding Secretary, reported as follows:

It is a keen disappointment for me not to be able to be at the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Convention of the Luther League of New York State.

I have, however, been called into the military service to carry to victory the high ideals and principles that have permeated the best in our country. I leave Brooklyn tomorrow before the convention opens.

Nevertheless I shall remember the convention in prayer that it may be one of the most spiritual, and one which will adequately measure up to the needs of the hour. The twenty-fifth milestone convention should be as memorable as the first convention.

I would briefly report as follows:

1. I have performed as best I could the routine duties which have fallen to me to do.

2. During the year in company with Mrs. Frank Miller, the Chairman of the Extension Committee, I visited and spoke at one of the meetings of the Westchester District.

3. I have been able to compile a list of the Secretaries of the local organizations connected with our State, and of course with the District, League.

Mrs. C. J. Witherwax, Statistical Secretary, reported that the New York State League consists of 103 Senior Leagues and 7 Junior Leagues, with a total membership of 6,024, and 188, respectively; 48 societies use the Luther League Topics; 36 the Luther League Hymnal; 24 the Luther League Reading Course; 76 hold religious meetings; 416 subscriptions for the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW are recorded, and the total contributions for benevolence and local expenses aggregate $9,848.70. It is encouraging to note the increase over last year of Senior Leagues, of those using the Luther League Topics, of those using the Luther League Reading Course, of those holding religious meetings, and likewise an increase in contributions of $543.94.

The Treasurer, Mr. Oscar Rothe, reported receipts for the year amounting to $907.78; disbursements, $835.32.

Mrs. Frank Miller, Chairman of the Extension Committee, Eastern Section, reported as follows:

My report covers five months of the year.

First, I found that Westchester District was not as yet ready to come into the State League, so started correspondence with them.

At a special meeting of the District in Mt. Vernon, on April 18, which your chairman was privileged to attend, a motion was carried that Westchester District make application for membership in the State League A copy of their constitution is in the hands of the Credential Committee.

The reports from the various Districts of this Section are most encouraging.

Rhinebeck District reports two new Leagues: Red Hook and Poughkeepsie.

Mohawk Valley District reports the forming of several Junior Societies.

New York City District has been unusually active. Their President reports three new Leagues for the year, and the efforts they are making to add others will surely bring results.

Albany and Susquehanna District report progress with several Leagues they are striving for.

Brooklyn and Long Island District report seven Leagues added for the year: St. Paul's, Dunton; St. Peter's, Baldwin; Holy Trinity, Hollis; Christ Church, Floral Park; St. John's, Richmond Hill; Cotta Club, St. Luke's, Brooklyn; Junior Society of St. Matthew's, Brooklyn.

Rev. J. F. Bermon, Archivist, submitted the following report:

As Archivist we wish to report that we have received and placed on file during the year, The Minute Book, containing the minutes of twenty conventions of the State League; a half dozen copies of the LUTHER LAEGUE REVIEW, Volume 30, Number 7; one program of the twenty-fourth convention, held at Utica, N. Y.; program of the annual convention of the Brooklyn Luther Leagues.

We have on file programs of the nineteenth to the present convention, but none previous to the nineteenth convention. We would like to have a complete file of all the programs, if it is possible, and would ask the help of the Leaguers to make up file of programs of State Conventions from the first to the nineteenth.

We would ask that the Secretaries of our Leagues send us a copy of the programs which they render from time to time. A great deal of valuable information that would be useful to League members could be gathered in this way.

The Press Committee, Mr. Howard Classen, chairman, reported in part as follows:

Your committee has endeavored during the past year to keep the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and other Church papers supplied with New York State Luther League information, especially concerning this, our twenty-fifth Anniversary Convention.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last convention, your Press Committee got in touch with Rev. O. H. Pannkoke, of New York, and Rev. Howard Gold, of Philadelphia, to get their ideas and help for publicity. Their idea of publicity seemed to be to purchase a number of articles on the Reformation, in plate form, at $1.75 each, and get the editors of different newspapers to print the same. After taking this matter up with our President and also our Treasurer, your committee decided not to take on anything which would necessitate a large expenditure of money.

Your committee respectfully suggests that the next Press Committee get in touch with the New York Lutheran Bureau, Rev. O. H. Pannkoke, of New York, the secretary. This committee will, as we tions without charge on their part, in order to keep understand, do publicity work for important conventions without charge on their part in order to keep the Lutheran Church before the American people.

The final report of the Credential Committee, Mr. Louis A. Biel, chairman, showed that 93 delegates and 138 visitors were in attendance.

The Jubilee Fund Committee, Mr. C. C. Dittmer, chairman, presented the following report:

The Jubilee Fund Committee, which your President appointed at the last convention at Utica, has been an active one.

A list of the local Luther Leagues and other organization affiliated with the seven District Leagues, was secured. This list was checked up with the books of the Treasurer, and those Leagues that had not contributed received a series of letters. In all, the committee sent five different letters explaining

the Fund, and urging co-operation in making the Fund a success in our State.

Our work has only been a partial success, not due to our laxity, but rather it would seem to have been caused by the inactivity and indifference of many of our Leagues. Then, too, there seems to have been a shrinkage of members, for nearly 70 per cent. of our Leagues have contributed, but less than one-half of our apportionment has been secured.

According to my records, $684 has been secured for the Fund. This money is in the hands of the State Treasurer, the District Treasurers, and the local League Treasurers.

According to my records, the following table shows the relative standing of each District:

	Apportionment	Raised	Per Cent
Westchester	None	$5.50	No
Brooklyn and Long Island	$164.00	145.00	88
Albany and Susq.	342.50	178.00	52
Syracuse	177.75	90.25	51
Rhinebeck	175.00	63.25	36
Mohawk Valley	251.25	88.75	35
New York	120.00	44.00	31
Buffalo	361.75	69.25	19
	$1,593.25	$684.00	

A schedule supporting this table is appended to this report.

As a result of the work of this committee, I would make the following recommendations:

1. A vigorous effort should be made to secure the balance of our apportionment before the national convention in August.

2. That the only way in which to secure this money has been shown to be by co-operation of the District Treasurers. In other words, the District Treasurer or District Secretary should be the person responsible in his District for raising the full amount of the apportionment. Letters from the State Chairman are ignored, whereas letters, phone calls, and personal visits of the District Treasurer or Secretary are productive of the best results.

3. Since hereafter I would recommend as above that the work be done by the District Treasurer in his District, may I suggest that the President appoint an energetic person in every District—preferably the District Treasurer or Secretary—on this committee.

4. That the National Treasurer be asked to state definitely in the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW if possible the status of the Fund to date, and also what efforts are being made to conserve the Fund so that literature and other material might be printed. In other words, one or two Leagues have made the inquiry that since the last report of the National Treasurer shows over $1,000 raised for the Jubilee Fund—perhaps nearer $2,000 now—why the Handbook and other literature has not been forthcoming?

5. That our delegates to the National Convention suggest, if the financial difficulties of the National League are discussed, that this amount be not apportioned on the basis of receiving a certain sum from every person who is listed as a Leaguer. Rather let the amount be apportioned to every State, so that the State League in turn could ask for a voluntary contribution of whatever sum the local League might feel willing to contribute. The main difficulty of the Jubilee Fund has been that we have asked too little—people nowadays in a general sense want to respond only to big things.

Verbal reports were then given by the presidents of each of the seven districts, and were interesting and encouraging, abounding in helpful suggestions for further growth and development.

Miss Verna Traver, Chairman of the Literature Committee, reported in part as follows:

An effort has been made to urge every local League to conduct devotional meetings, using the *Topics* and the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, and to take up the Quadricentennial Reading Course.

Reports show that a greater interest has been taken in some of our Leagues, and more are having devotional meetings and using the *Topics*, yet there are a large number of Leagues which are not using the *Topics*.

No League can hope to be truly efficient without keeping in close touch with what the Luther League stands for: namely, "Of the Church, by the Church, for the Church." The only way to do this is by conducting devotional meetings.

At the last State Convention at Utica it was resolved that each League should elect a REVIEW Secretary, whose duties it would be to take subscriptions to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, but I fear in too many Leagues this has been neglected.

In one District of nineteen Leagues, there are only sixteen LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEWS subscribed for, and eleven of those are from one League who elected a REVIEW Secretary. This shows that more subscriptions to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW would be procured if it was brought before the Leaguers.

The Quadricentennial Reading Course has done much to awaken interest in our Leagues. It has taught the Leaguer to know his Church, and has given him a better understanding of what the Reformation really was and what benefits the world has received from it.

In accordance with the resolution at the State Convention in Buffalo, 1916, "That the State League provide a table of Lutheran literature at each annual convention," a Literature Table has been arranged and all Leaguers are invited to look over our literature.

Realizing greater efficiency in affiliation, the convention expressed keen delight in being privileged to receive into full membership the Westchester County District League.

At this session, Mr. I. Searles Runyon delivered an address in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Luther League of New York State. Using as his theme "Luther League History and What It Teaches," Mr. Runyon spoke clearly and forcefully as follows:

Three thoughts impress me as I attempt to address you on this occasion: First, the honor you have conferred in the invitation extended me; second, regret that you could not have history reviewed by one who helped make it from the beginning; third, the responsibility I face in the attempt to read the lessons of your history. For it is no light thing to mark a twenty-fifth milestone of life.

We study our own history with one of two purposes in view; namely, either to gratify our pride, or else to clarify our vision and strengthen our judgment so as to make future effort more productive of good results. I assume that you prefer to study your history with the latter end in view, hence I refer but briefly to events, and more extensively to what they appear to teach us.

The Luther League of New York State was organized at a convention at Utica, May 29 and 30, 1893. It was called together and partially planned by a group of men who met in St. John's Church, Albany, February 22, 1893. The following composed this group: Rev. W. L. Hunton, Rochester; Mr. Ernest Hayn, Pittsfield; Rev. W. H. Hoffman and Rev. D. L. Roth, Albany; Mr. Alfred Mettler and Mr. Henry F. Heuchel, Brooklyn; Mr. William H. Stein-Kamp, Mr. George D. Boschen, and Mr. Ernest F. Eilert, New York. Representatives from Rhinebeck District were to have been present, but appear to have been prevented by a severe snowstorm, or "blizzard," as it is designated in the report. The program of this convention carried the following topics: "A State Association, Its Benefits"; "Central Associations, Their Influence"; "Do Young People's Societies Aid the Pastor?"; "The Effect of Organization"; "The Lutheran Church the Mother Church"; "The Lutheran Church—Its Special Work"; "Exhortation and Encouragement"; "A National Association of Lutheran Young People"; "The State Association—What Shall Its Special Work Be?" These topics indicate clearly what some of the problems were that the young Lutherans of that day faced. Reviewing them carefully we see that they had definitely in mind the distinctive work of the Church, how best to aid

the pastor in that work, the meaning and value of organization, the need of caution in procedure as well as of encouragement. You see how seriously they went about their business. It was at this convention that the name "Luther League" was coined and adopted.

Now, it is worthy of note that this convention blazed the trail for the whole Luther League movement, for from this program can be easily traced the lines upon which the Luther League of America was afterwards laid down. These same constructive ideas dominated the convention in Pittsburgh, in 1895, at which the Luther League of America was organized. The call to this convention was addressed to "members of Lutheran societies, of whatever name and however synodically related, who would sustain the endeavor of a National Luther League to quicken, by churchly methods, especially among our youth, a clearer consciousness of Christian faith, and to promote among them a practical Christian life." And in all the subsequent history of the Luther League the dominant notes have been those struck at Utica, May 29 and 30, 1893. Today we can refer to but three of these, and we take the three which have the double advantage of being fundamental and especially important in our time.

First, Co-operation. The thing which more than any other led to the formation of a "Central Association" in New York City was indicated in the statement, "They hardly know each," made of the young people of the various Lutheran Churches in this city. The need of association in order to co-operate was also clearly set forth in the program of the Utica convention. And Dr. R. E. McDaniel, in an inspirational note in the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, referring to the approaching National Convention, wrote, "Greet each other, meet each other, know each other, and love each other." And was there ever a time when united effort was more needed than now? Look at the task that is before the Church. All religious bodies are reorganizing, or planning reorganization, of their forces for larger and more effective effort during the war, and especially after it is over. The Lutheran Church is in greater need of more power for its part of the work than any other of these forces. The future is big with promise, by reason of the coming merger of the leading branches of the Church. The Luther League must be ready to bear its part. We need better organization for greater co-operation.

Second, Education. A trite word. We have heard it so often, and always with emphasis. But it needs double emphasis now. Strenuous work is going on in the world. Men are exerting themselves as they never have exerted themselves before. Much of this effort is physical. But that which is mental is just as great. Men are thinking as they have never thought before. And some are thinking who have never taken the time and trouble to think much before. And some are thinking about religion who have never before given that subject much thought. The Lutheran Church presents the view of religion which appeals most strongly to thoughtful men. It is our duty and privilege to see that this view gets before them. Win the thinkers, who are the leaders, and the others will follow, as they do in other lines of thought and activity.

Third, Loyalty. Dr. W. L. Hunton, writing to inspire the young people to attend the first National Convention, quotes the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW as stating the "object of the Luther League to be "to train the members to be loyal Church members." " Again and again have we heard the word "Loyal," and of course we always understood that loyalty to the Church was what was enjoined and insisted upon. But what is involved in that expression, devotion to the Church merely as an institution? No. Something far greater, higher, more sacred than any institution claims our loyalty. It is that for which the institution stands, the thing it represents, namely, the truth. Yes, that great system of truth about God, and the crown of His creation, mankind, and man's relation to Him, which the Lutheran Church has made the theme of its thought since it came to be a medium for the transmission of thought. But let us not make the mistake of trying to divide truth, to recognize it in one field and overlook it in another; to affirm it in one place and deny it in another; to accept it in the mouth of one faithful witness and reject it if it comes to us by that of another. The Lutheran Church is today under suspicion in some minds. The Church is innocent, but some men who bear the name Lutheran are, I fear, not blameless. Many of these men have denied facts because they could not find it in their hearts to accept them. In denying these facts they have denied the truth. These men have yet to learn the full meaning of the statement that "God is no respecter of persons." Just as surely is He no respecter of nations. Accepting the truth about God involves the admission of the truth about men and their actions, no matter who the human idols who must fall. Love of, and loyalty to, truth must be stronger in men's hearts than are love of a language or devotion to an ancestry. We must look upon truth as an entirety, an unbroken, unqualified whole —not something to be accepted if it pleases us or denied when it pains us; but to be recognized and affirmed at all times, everywhere, of every person and nation.

One weakness of the Luther League which I think we should take account of at this time is its lack of a sufficient number of adequately trained leaders. We have let too many young men slip through our fingers without serving their terms of apprenticeship and active service. Leaders once trained should vacate their places to be occupied by their successors. I admit my own mistakes in this direction. I hope you all will do better than I have done.

Young men and women of this day in the Luther League have a great heritage to live up to. You of this generation must not let history say that you fell below the standard of brotherly co-operation, systematic education in religion, and loyalty to the truth that was set up by your spiritual fathers of twenty-five years ago.

This session was enlivened by listening to two finely executed piano solos by Prof. W. Haan.

President Wilke announced that Rev. John Kopp, of New Jersey, and Hon. E. F. Eilert, of New York City, were the only ones present who attended the first New York State Convention in Utica in 1893. They were introduced and responded with a few well chosen remarks.

The convention was indeed privileged in having in attendance Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary of the Luther League of America.

President Wilke appointed the following committees:

Reports and Resolutions—Rev. A. C. Karkau, Rev. F. Voght, Miss Stern, Rev. A. J. Traver, Rev. Yost Brandt, Mrs. W. F. Eckert, and Mr. H. Classen.

Nominating—Mrs. Frank Miller, Mr. Wm. Eck, Mr. G. C. Zecher, Miss Edna Stein, Miss Alice Albing, Mrs. Graves, and Miss Verna Traver.

Auditing—Miss E. Wersing, Mr. Conrad Bergendoff, and Mr. Paul J. Keller.

Convention Copies of REVIEW—Mr. Harry Hodges, Miss Edna Stein, Mr. G. C. Zecher, and Mr. Howard Classen.

Between sessions the convention was invited to inspect and patronize the Exhibit and the Literature table. Rev. Harold S. Miller had charge of the Exhibit, and Miss Verne Traver presided over the Literature table.

Third Session, Wednesday Afternoon

"The Relation of the Luther League to the Congregation" was the theme of an ad-

dress ably delivered by Rev. Amos J. Traver, of New York City, who said in part:

The League should be the training camp for intelligent Church workers. Let us once for all remember that it is not the young people's Church. The efficient League President will make the efficient Councilman or officer of the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society. The League should have the devotional meetings if practical; if not, should make sure that the regular meetings have place for some distinctly religious messages. The place of worship will not be neglected by the efficient Leaguer. There will be no confusion in his mind as to the secondary place of the League meetings when related to the worship of the Church. Then, finally, the League is the place of service. Here is the most neglected field of League endeavor. We spend time training for battles we never fight. Too self-centered is the average League. Its motto might well be, "Get all you can, but don't can all you get." The young people of the Church might well use the League as the medium of Inner Mission Service. Does your League do anything for the hospitals of your city, for summer homes for children, for the poor, for war relief? Here is a field of expression better adapted to the average young people than the usual League program. Let the League unite the young people of the Church for social expression; let the League also unite them for practical Christian work. The statue of Phillips Brooks in Boston shows us the great preacher sitting in a chair, while behind him with hand on his shoulder stands the Christ. So let the Leaguer take of the inspiration and power of the Master and channel it to the poor and needy. In such Christian expression there will be no time or reason for a discussion as to the relation between the "relations" in the Church family.

A discussion followed Rev. Traver's paper.

Mr. George D. Boschen, President of the Lutheran Society of New York City, and a former State League President, and Dr. Buermeyer, one of the State League organizers, were introduced, and responded.

President Wilke conducted a Question Box, assisted by Rev. G. B. Young, D. D., of Brooklyn, and Secretary Hodges. Much practical discussion was called forth in answering the questions which had been previously submitted by the delegates.

The tense and vibrant interest of this session was delightfully relaxed, when the convention was privileged to listen to Miss Augusta Snyder, of Brooklyn, who sang "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," and "Who Shall Ascend Unto the Hill of the Lord?"

The convention adjourned to take an automobile sightseeing trip, to which it was so generously treated by its hosts. The guests were highly appreciative.

Fourth Session, Wednesday Evening

The choir of St. Luke's, Mr. Carl Maurice Dietrich, organist, rendered as special music during this session, "Cherubic Host," from "The Holy City"; "Inflammatus," from "Stabat Mater," and "Marvellous Are Thy Works, Lord, God," from "The Holy City."

Rev. A. Steimle, D. D., of Brooklyn, delivered the evening address on "The Vision of the Church's Youth." Dr. Steimle spoke fluently and convincingly as follows:

And I, John, saw the Holy City. If you will examine that term "city" as it is used in Scripture, you will find a remarkable change from Genesis to Revelation. In Genesis it reads "Cain builded a city"—Cain, a wicked man. And at the conclusion of the New Testament, "I, John, saw the holy city." "Let us build a tower that shall reach into Heaven," was the cry of the children of men, and they were scattered and the wrath of God came upon them. The "holy city," coming down out of Heaven, is the vision that John saw.

Now, a city is a growing thing, a thing of life; it is not a thing ready made. To be builders of this city is our great privilege—the privilege of those who are here as the representatives of the Luther Leagues of the churches in New York State, and they are here tonight and this week to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of that body. The temptation is great for us in these days to look back—to realize that there was a remarkable group of young men, who knew and recognized the call that came to them to be builders of the "city." They looked beyond their own little bounds—it was to be a "city." But if we indulged only in reflections this evening, we would limit God's power to make use of us for the future—there would be no reason why we would be here. We must forget the things that are behind, and stretch forth to that which is before—see the vision of the "city." And to help in the construction of that city you and I are called!

I would leave with you a few slogans tonight, to carry with you through the coming twenty-five years. The first is—

"Behold the dreamer cometh." Joseph's brethren, those men of flesh who worked and tended their flocks in Shechem and Dothan, they did not understand when their seventeen year old brother talked to them of his dreams and of the stars. They were offended with his dreams, they did away with him—but later it was the grain which by his foresight had been set aside which saved the lives of those same brethren. I want to impress this one thought upon you if I can, "Behold, the dreamer cometh." This ought to characterize the Luther League—to dream and see visions.

Daniel—"They found Daniel praying" is one of the remarkable statements in this book. In spite of the fact that the edict had gone out that no prayer should be uttered to God or man save to the king, "they found Daniel praying." He knew the power of prayer. He had proven its power when, as a young lad, he and his companions refused to eat the king's meat, contrary to their religion, and requested pulse instead for a few days, and were then found to be fairer than all those who ate the king's fare. And so now, too, he believed in the power of prayer. Daniel had a vision first of all; he was a dreamer, and then he prayed. The world today is praying—it is praying that wars may cease unto the ends of the earth, and that peace may be restored; and the only answer seems to be a lion's den—we only hear of more wars, of greater preparation, of more men! But afterward, the gates of the lion's den opened to those who wished ill to Daniel, and then the edict went forth that the God of Daniel, He was the Living and True and Righteous God. It was through Daniel's steadfastness in prayer, that help came. Luther Leaguers, continue always to pray! Let the Devotional Meeting always have its place! Hold it fast!

And finally, "This one thing I do." "Dreaming" like Joseph, "Praying" like Daniel, and "Doing" like Paul! There was a man in the days of Paul who ruled. The world was at his feet; he played on his fiddle while Rome burned—he was a great man. And yet, what do we care about Nero today? And there was Paul—if what is said about him is true, he was not good to look upon—yea, even repulsive—he had sore eyes and could not see very well; he was small and insignificant; he was bent and unsightly. Yet how much he is to us; how he walks with us in every path of life—he is with us at the hour of death; he is our friend still at the wedding—"So ought a man to love his wife, even as Christ loves the Church." Nero was great—Paul ugly and despised. Yet today, which would you rather be? You have answered that question long since—you call your sons Paul, and your dogs you call Nero.

One of the dreams of the Luther League, and to the realization of which it has contributed no mean share, is about to become a reality—the merger of the three great Lutheran bodies. What a glory if the Luther League would dream some more, and

pray and do—if every Luther Leaguer would catch the vision of the "holy city" and then become a builder, so that one day he might, as Paul before Agrippa, say "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

Fifth Session, Thursday Morning

After devotional service, "How to Lead the Boy to Like Religion" was the theme of a paper read by Rev. A. T. Michler, of Philadelphia, National Chairman of the Junior Work Committee. Rev. Michler truly and ably asserted:

Those who have had the formation of your program in charge have rendered a splendid service in raising the question contained in the subject assigned to me. How to lead the boy to like religion is a significant question, particularly at this time, when the welfare of our boys is so much in the mind of the nation. Questions of this sort, together with the great sacrifices of our young manhood that must come, have produced an attitude of mind and heart toward the boys that will be productive of great good. And this spirit prevails also in our Church life. If the national mind is quickened to a new interest in our boys, should not the Church of Jesus Christ be more interested and alive to its responsibilities and opportunities for the spiritual development of the boys within her fold? Here, then, is a special sphere of service for the Kingdom and one which will be productive of rich results.

The objective of the question before us is more obvious than an agreement as to the method of its accomplishment. One thing is certain and that is this: It is God who creates the spiritual attitude toward religion and enables the boy to grow to like it.

In the first place, the objective in dealing with our boys is to create within him a religious life. He is to grow up spiritually minded. He is to learn to know God, as revealed in the sacred Scriptures. This is our distinctive point of view. There are many religions in the world; but only one revealed message from the one and only true God. We therefore want to bring our boys to a condition of spiritual devotion to the God of the Bible. He has manifested Himself in His Son Jesus Christ. It is personal loyalty and love to the great Christ that we want to cultivate in the heart of the boy. We want to make the boy feel that Jesus is his faithful friend, his noble example, his Saviour, his power against all evil. We want to develop in the boy's life the habit of private and faithful devotion to this Saviour of the world. We want him to know how to pray. We want him to read and study the Bible. We also want him to learn to love the Church. In it the boy is to find what he needs for his soul. He is to grow up in it, learn to love it, be faithful to it, work for it, and be a regular attendant. The Sunday School is also to be the object of his affection. To it we want him to go, grow up in it, work for and in it, and to gain delightful associations from his experience there. But we want him to be a boy of right action. If he does not put into practice what the learns and feels, he will be weakened. He is to stand for the right, become courageous when tempted to do wrong, and do this because he loves the right as Jesus exhibits it. This in brief is our objective.

But let us take a look at the boy himself. If we would lead the boy to like religion, we must know something of the boy and his nature. And in dealing with this subject I am thinking of the boy between the ages of ten and seventeen years. He is one of the most interesting of God's creatures. One of the most important reasons why we should be interested in him at this age is his susceptibility to influence. He is in the plastic state. Impressions come to the mind and soul with the power of freshness. They are the first to come, hence their importance. These will lead him to action. This is a period of rapid physical growth. He is full of unbounded energy and enthusiasm. He must be doing something. Therefore any method to lead him to like religion must possess the merit of action. He wants to be on the go, and is therefore restless. He lacks self control and poise. But with all this he is in a period of mental awakening. He will ask many questions. His understanding is growing larger. Of this he is conscious. Now is the time for the sowing of religious truth. He also wants to be treated with consideration. There is a larger personal consciousness than before. If we treat him with respect, he will show it in return. He also possesses the social instinct. It is the period for gangs or groups. He loves a good time. He has a ready confidence. He is ready to place it in any good friend. Never make a promise you cannot fulfill. Adults can understand, but a boy cannot make the proper distinctions. If you make promises lightly, you will break his confidence, and your work with him will be weakened. His spiritual conceptions will also receive a severe jolt. But woe to the man who gives such offense! But we find the boy spiritually sensitive. He is alert here, and is beautifully receptive. Faith is ready to receive the things of the Father. Then his sense of consecration to Jesus is strong. The boy's idea of loyalty, through thick and thin, applies to Christ as to others. The boy is ready for Christian leadership. God gives us the opportunity in the boy's very nature. Let us use it.

Now it is leadership that counts in the answer to this question. It is not force or command, but patient leading. Not all boys are alike, but all boys can be led. We need leaders, then, to do the leading. What can we say about them? They ought to be Christian men. In fact, they must be such. No man can lead successfully into fields unfamiliar to him. Our leaders of boys in the Church must be Christian Church members, who appreciate their Church, who love it, who speak well of it, who uphold their pastors and show a noble example of Christian manhood before the boys. They must be men who are interested in boys. And by this I mean something more than a passing interest in the possibilities in boys as a class. The term interest includes a motive force that will compel action and produce self-sacrificing work, but such it will not be called, because the joy of the work overcomes all thoughts of such efforts in the terms of WORK. It will direct such a leader to the boys themselves. He will know them intimately. He will have a large heart for the boys. He will always remember that he is an adult and they his boys; that there is a difference between the two in viewpoint and that this must be taken into account. He will be patient with them and see things from their point of view. He will plan for them, get them to work, not expect too much from them, and give them encouragement when they deserve it. He will be true to them and live a right life. His deeds will square with his words. His life will count as much, if not more, for the cause of Christ and Church membership and life, than his words. True and faithful are two terms which briefly characterize the leader with our boys.

The next element in the answer to this question is that a group of boys is necessary for the more efficient leading of the boys to like religion. Given a leader with sufficient help, the group, properly organized, will produce results. Such a group should be formed within the Church. The Boys' Luther League of the Intermediate Department answers such a requirement. Such an organization should have these definite aims: The religious, educational and recreative elements which develop, inform, interest and hold the boy to the Church. They should meet weekly where the religious-educational program is carried out by the boys, thus training them for Christian service. Let all effort be recognized at different times by tokens of recognition. Carry out the League programs using the League Topics. Have them commit Scripture. Teach them to pray in public. Have them conduct their own meeting. Have different men of prominence as well as the Church officers speak to them. Form different groups of an educational character, such as are of interest to the boys. Form athletic teams. Take hikes and educational trips. Have socials, a boys' dinner for instance, with speakers of older boys and others. Use the boys in Church work. Note their Church attendance, daily Bible reading and prayers for a year by merit badges. Plan a summer camp of some sort. This is a great opportunity and a wonderful privilege to reach the boy, interest him, teach him, influence him and make a Christian impress upon his character that will never be effaced.

But let our congregation and Senior Luther Luther Leagues be more interested and sympathetic in the work. Where this has been lacking many a boy and young man has turned away from the Church and the Christian religion in disgust. Shall not our

men of the Church see a great field for Christian service among the future men of the State and Church and decide to enter it? If we believe in Christ and His Church, His Gospel and Sacrifice, His creation and especially the inestimable value of human life in its wonderful period of formation, the costs and efforts required, will be considered more than worth while.

An animated discussion followed this paper.

The special music for this session was a vocal solo by Miss Maybelle E. Johnson, of Brooklyn, and a violin solo by Mr. Philip Gronemeyer, of St. Louis, accompanied by Miss Ida Calvert, of Wisconsin.

The following amendments to the Constitution were adopted:

Amendment to Article VIII, Section 5:

Committee on Junior and Intermediate Work, whose duty it shall be to organize and foster Junior and Intermediate organizations in harmony with the plans of the Junior and Intermediate Committee of the Luther League of America, and to act in the capacity of a clearing house on the subject.

That Section 5 of the present Constitution be made Section 6.

Amendment to Article XI, Section 1:

The annual dues in this League shall be a per capita apportionment of 13 cents for every Senior member enrolled in the District Leagues and for each individual society not connected with a District League, the Districts being responsible for the collection and transmission of local dues.

The Secretary, Miss Mary St. John, read letters of greeting from Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, President of the Lutheran League of America; and from the following former presidents of the Luther League of New York State: Messrs. Dinkey, Rector and Hieber.

Sixth Session, Thursday Afternoon

At this session the following officers were declared elected:

President, Mr. George C. Zecher, of New Rochelle; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Marie Hachtmann, of Brooklyn; Recording Secretary, Miss Alice Albing, of Buffalo; Statistical Secretary, Miss Catherine Shank, of Albany; Treasurer, Mr. Louis A. Biel, of Utica; Archivist, Mr. Fred Ihlo, of New York City.

The following delegates to the National Luther League Convention, Buffalo, August 27-29, were also declared elected: Mr. L. A. Wilke, Mr. G. C. Zecher, Mr. E. F. Eilert, Mr. I. S. Runyon, Mr. William Eck, Mr. L. A. Biel, Miss Mary St. John, Rev. A. C. Karkau, Rev. W. G. Boonhower, Mr. Henry Metz.

"The Luther League's Open Door" was the theme of the address delivered by Rev. W. A. Snyder, D. D., of Brooklyn. Dr. Snyder eloquently asserted:

Our first open door is that of AMERICANIZING OUR CHURCH.

Our Church has always adapted herself to the life and the customs of every land of her home. Up to this time almost every denomination of the United States has suffered from a little European soil clinging to its roots. Men of all Churches have been loath to cut away from forms of organization, and from customs which their ancestors brought to these shores. We have had a glorious heritage handed down to us and we would be untrue to the past if we ruthlessly neglected it. But in these days it is very unwise for the Church to retain anything in externals and nonessentials which is not American. The faith, the doctrine of the Church is ever the same in all ages and in all lands. But the Lutheran Church adapts herself in externals to the nation.

GEORGE C. ZECHER,
President New York State League.

For instance, it would be unwise in the future, it seems to me, to catechize our American children in any language but the language of our land. It would be unwise to insist upon preaching the Gospel here, except where it is absolutely necessary to the salvation of souls, in any but the language of the land. It is unwise to retain external methods of giving, simply because our ancestors found them suitable in another land and in another age.

The second open door is that of UNIFICATION.

Three of our large Lutheran bodies have decided to unite. There has been rejoicing throughout our ranks. If the Lutheran Church in this country is to fulfill her Godgiven mission of bringing the pure doctrine of God's Word to the people, she must continue to swing as a pendulum between the extremes of dead orthodoxy and destructive liberalism. It must be our task to see to it that our Church is not swamped by the tendency of our day to sacrifice truth for the sake of mere outward union. The open door of the Lutheran Church in the future, as in the past, leads to proclaiming "the faith once delivered to the saints."

The third open door is that of TRUE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

One of the purposes of the League has been to furnish our young people with an organization in which they may learn the doctrine, the history and the true cultus of our Church. It has done wonderful work along these lines and been the means of saving many young people to our Church. Our open door of education now leads to larger fields of usefulness. In the mad religious scramble, due to changing conditions and the complex social and economic problems confronting our people today, many churches and even more Christians are forgetting everything the past centuries have taught us. Men and women are inclined to become religious revolutionists. We must lead them again to the foundations of the faith and we must prove to them again the old truths. We have been well informed in matters of doctrine in the Lutheran Church, due to our splendid system of catechization, but we have not been quite so conversant with our Bibles as we should be. From now on, we must be informed along both lines of this education.

The fourth open door is that of EVANGELIZATION.

We are charged with the task of bringing the Gospel to every creature, especially we Lutherans who have it in such clear, pure form. We have confined ourselves too much in this land to bringing it to people who are of Lutheran descent. But from now on this field of our past endeavor will grow smaller and smaller. Now we must begin to bring the Gospel to *every soul* of this land of ours. The day is dawning when a congregation shall have many parish workers, whose privilege it shall be to invite the outsiders to our churches and to our work.

Not only that, but there is a great world of fifteen hundred millions of unsaved souls awaiting the testimony of the Church in other lands. What part are our congregations playing in this great warfare for Jesus in the wide, wide world? Can our congregations rest until each one has provided at least the means to send one missionary abroad, so that they may feel that they at least are doing as much for others as they are doing for themselves?

The musical features of this session were a vocal duet by the Misses Emily K. Knemeyer and E. Donald, and a violin solo by Mr. Herbert Rucknich.

Rev. A. C. Karkau, Chairman of the Committee on Reports and Resolutions, presented their report.

Grand Rally, Thursday Evening

The Chaplain conducted the Vesper Service, assisted by Rev. Henry C. Wasmund, of Brooklyn.

The choir of St. Paul's, Miss Martha S. Tourte, organist, rendered as special music during this session, Parker's "In Heavenly Love Abiding," Chadwick's "Awake Up My Glory," and Gounod's "By Babylon's Wave."

The Grand Rally address, "The Church's Duty in the Nation's Need," was delivered by one eminently qualified to discuss so comprehensive a subject, Pres. Wm. A. Granville, Ph. D. LL. D., of Gettysburg College. Dr. Granville spoke with a force and charm that made clear and potent his significant utterances:

I have always been intensely interested in the work of the Luther League—I have always taken every opportunity to do what I could, when I could, for this work, and it fills my heart with joy to see this gathering here this evening, so many of you interested in this extremely important work of the Church. I know that many of you must be gratified to know that one of the things that you have been striving for so many years, namely the bringing together of the various branches of our beloved Church, is now nearing a consummation. It would be difficult to calculate how much the Luther League had to do with it, but that its influence was very great no one can doubt.

Obviously, the Church's duty at this moment consists of two parts—the ordinary duties of peace times, plus the duties imposed by the war or duties that the Church should assume because of the war. It is the duty of the Church to strengthen in every way her peace duties.

Another duty of the Church is to explain the issues of this war. Thank God, any pastor can from his pulpit do that without any apology—he can choose his text from any number of places in the Bible and preach a real sermon on the issues of this war. Thank God, the standard of our national morality and right and justice has changed, so that no longer will it be said, "My country—may she always be right, but my country, right or wrong." It is only "My country" when she is right, and thank God, she *is* right. The issues of this war are such that they can be and should be properly explained from the pulpit. Now I know there are some people who think that there is too much about the war spoken from the pulpit. They say they get tired of hearing about the war from the pulpit. Now, let me tell you—you can exclude the war from the pulpit, but you cannot exclude it from the PEW. The people are thinking about this war while they are sitting in the House of God. Their innermost souls and lives are touched by it, and if there is any place that is a proper place for speaking of the war and the issues of the war and the possible results of the war—it certainly is from the pulpit in the House of God.

Then there is this spiritual care of our soldiers in the cantonments, the training camps and on the front, and we have all rejoiced in the wonderful response that came to the appeal from the National Lutheran Commission for money for this work. Now, I can talk with some knowledge on this subject, as I live in Gettysburg, where we have large camps, as many as 12,000 soldiers, and I have studied this situation, I have worked in the camp and I know something about it—at least enough to understand the need of such a movement as was inaugurated for caring for our Lutheran boys. In the first place, there are the chaplains in the army—some of them are very able, some very competent, but even the best of them find it extremely hard to get right close to the spiritual life of their men. When they do things to entertain them, the meetings are well attended, but when it comes right down to real Christian work, they have their difficulties—they are not able to reach them all. Then there is the Y. M. C. A., and one of the most wonderful manifestations we have seen in this war has been their work. It would be utterly wrong to throw a word of discredit on the Y. M. C. A.—but here again there are limitations—I have seen them and have noted them at the camp in Gettysburg. In a certain sense they can do Christian work that the chaplains are not able to do, but even they are limited—they will frankly tell you that if a meeting is called which is known to be a strictly religious devotional meeting, especially if there is any expectation of a personal touch being made along religious lines, very few will come. Last summer about 4,000 of the soldiers arrived on one day—the first day. We have at Gettysburg an Episcopal church, a very beautiful little building, but the local congregation is very small, very weak, and the rector had died two or three months before the camp opened and the Bishop had sent no one to take his place, and there was no one serving in that Episcopal church. The first Sunday that the camp was there, there must have been 15 or 20 of the soldiers that had hunted up this Episcopal church—they knew it was an Episcopal church by the signboard—and there they stood, and we saw them standing there as we went to our churches, and there they stood and waited and waited for their church to open. No one came, and after a while they went back to camp. They did not go to a Lutheran church, they did not go to the Methodist church or any other church—they went back to camp again, disappointed. My heart was almost sick when I saw

it and heard afterwards how disappointed these boys were. They longed for their own service. They wanted to get somewhere where they could be in touch with home, with the same forces that they were familiar with in their own home church, and nothing would serve them so well as the Episcopal service.

Now it is the same way with the Lutheran boys and the Methodist boys and others. So there is a real demand for that kind of service, and when it is offered in the proper way and encouraged there certainly are a sufficient number in any camp of any size to make it worth while.

Now, one of the most difficult problems due to the war that the church has to face is the securing of ministers, of spiritual leaders. Many of our pastors are going into the army as chaplains, others are enlisting in other branches of the service—they are constrained to do this for reasons which we have no right to question—and so—many of our congregations have become vacant for this reason. Even before the war the ministerial lines were rather thin—now they have been shot to pieces by the demand for men, for service in the armed forces of the United States.

What will be the remedy, what can we do? First of all it seems to me that one remedy would be for our congregations to call some of our retired pastors. You know, and I know, that there are a great many Lutheran preachers with a rich experience, good pastors, who have no charge, who may not have done very well in one place but who certainly, under more favorable circumstances, might serve most acceptably. There are hundreds of such men in our Lutheran church, and to my mind it is a sinful waste that they should not be used.

Another way in which we may use our efforts is to induce men over 31 to start studying for the ministry. A good many young men have an absurd notion that unless they are very young, they are too old to study. You know of pastors who started to study for the ministry after they were 31, men who have been of great service to the church, who comparatively late in life were confirmed perhaps, were converted and felt constrained to enter the ministry, and did so and they have done marvelous work.

Now thirdly—we might, as a church, encourage lay readers. In some branches of the Lutheran Church something has been done along this line, to help out the supply of pastors. There is no question but what there are large numbers of consecrated, educated, intelligent laymen who could and would serve most acceptably if they were given this standard in the church and were given an opportunity to help.

Then last, but not least—there are the women—an inexhaustible supply. Why should not we have women preachers? Women have gone into every other kind of work, especially these war days. There isn't a single department in which they have not entered, and in which they are not doing on an average just as good work as the men. Why, if it had not been for the women of England and France, this war would have been lost before we got into it. There are tens of thousands of them serving in all possible capacities in France today. There is no reason why our young women should not be trained for the ministry. I know there is a prejudice against it, and prejudice is very hard to work against, but "necessity knows no law," and after all, may not this be the solution to our question—a question which we have been facing for many years—of securing religious leaders? Who was it that told you first the story of Jesus? Wasn't it your mother? As you stood at your mother's knee, wasn't it then that you heard of the little babe of Bethlehem?

May we as a church, as a Luther League, as citizens of a country, take these things to heart and not let ourselves be encumbranced with a lot of useless things that are of no benefit to us, either in our civil or our religious life.

Following the address, appropriate closing remarks were offered by the newly elected President, Mr. Geo. C. Zecher, and by the General Secretary, Mr. Harry Hodges.

The twenty-fifth convention of the Luther League of New York State adjourned with the singing of "God Bless Our Native Land," and the closing Vesper Service conducted by the Chaplain, the Rev. M. Luther Canup.

General Secretary's Letter

DEAR FRIENDS:

I closed my last letter as I was about to leave for York, Pa. Here I had the privilege of speaking in old Christ Church, of which Dr. Enders is the pastor. It was in this church that the General Council and the General Synod separated a half century ago. From here we went to Hanover and spoke in two of the old pioneer churches of Pennsylvania Lutheranism.

Our next journey was to the national capital to attend the convention of the District of Columbia League. This organization has the honor of being the only one connected with the Luther League of America which has its dues and share of the Jubilee Fund paid in full. From here we journeyed to Cedar Rapids, where the Iowa League was assembled in convention. This League has the distinction of being the only State organization with a woman president. Her first year's work proved so successful that she was unanimously re-elected.

Our next point was Chicago, where we addressed the Chicago District. There was displayed a service flag bearing 569 stars, four of which were golden. May those they represent be shining as golden stars in the diadem of Christ! Tabor League of this district reports that every one of its male members is with the colors.

We then journeyed to Fort Wayne, where the Indiana League was in session, presided over by our efficient Mr. Fetta. The convention was held in the new First Church, of which Fort Wayne Lutheranism may well be proud. While here we met Mr. Frederick A. Klein, the field secretary of the Walther League, through whose courtesy we were given a vision of Missouri Synod Lutheranism. We have often wondered how this body in spite of its foreign tongue and foreign ideas and ideals was enabled to retain its young people to the extent that it does. We think that we have discovered the reason, if Fort Wayne is a sample. The churches are great piles of brick with high spires on the top of which gleam golden crosses. Here is the first hopeful sign. They are not ashamed to

display the Cross of Christ as are most Protestants and some Lutherans. Within the spires are bells which ring the "Angelus" morning, noon and night. Not a bad thing to remind the world thrice per day of the angelic message that the Christ was to be born. As you enter the church you find yourself in a great cathedral-like building, seating upward of a thousand people, and at once you are possessed with a feeling of reverence. Far up in a loft at the back are the choir and the organ. A real organ, whose music floats out and reverberates until the whole edifice seems to rise from its foundations and sway in space. The first object which attracts your attention as you enter is the altar, magnificent, attractive, reverence inspiring, with reredos reaching to the ceiling. The chief piece of furniture in the church. Not a small, insignificant, table-like affair resembling the wash-stand in a country hotel as we have seen in some churches. Upon the altar stands the Lutheran crucifix and not the Episcopalian plain cross, and on either side the eucharistic candles, for the Missourian brings with him to America his Lutheran practices as well as his Lutheran faith and does not celebrate the Holy Communion without burning candles.

But enough of the church; we will visit the school and the parish house. Each church conducts its own grade parochial school with ten employed teachers and there is a parochial high school. These schools are of such grade that their credits entitle the holder to enter the State colleges.

The parish house contains a theatre, billiard and pool rooms, bowling alley, gymnasium, club room, sewing room, dining room, kitchen and even a store where smokes, candy and soft drinks may be purchased.

But I fear that I am using too much space on this one subject. My intention was to show how this body of Lutherans holds its people, so permit me to sum up. Their children are educated in their own schools, where they learn religion and Lutheranism as well as the three R's; the parish houses provide their social life completely so that they are not obliged to seek for it elsewhere; their churches are of such high order that none other can compare or compete with them. Oh, that we all might learn this lesson!

Our next point was La Crosse, where the League of Wisconsin held convention. Our Mr. Rapps is the president of this organization and was re-elected. This convention thought itself fortunate in having four officers of the Luther League of America in attendance, The President, Second Vice-President, Literature Secretary and General Secretary.

We now wended our way back to Chicago and had the privilege of speaking in Trinity and Unity churches. The latter entertained the General Synod at its last session.

Our face was then turned toward Elizabeth, where the North New Jersey District was in convention assembled.

We were unable to attend the conventions of Nebraska, Connecticut and Nova Scotia, as their dates conflicted with those of other conventions upon whose programs we had a place.

This is the last opportunity which we shall have to address you before the Buffalo convention. Thus far but few credentials have been received. Please do not wait until the last minute to send them. It means a lot of work to classify and arrange them for use. Plan your vacation now to include August 27, 28, 29 and spend it at Buffalo. At a time when the nation is calling for all the energies of its people to be given to winning the great conflict in which it is engaged, some may feel that vacations are needless luxuries, if not treasonable; but sober reflection will clearly reveal that those who spend their annual vacations in preparing themselves for greater service in the period of reconstruction that will follow the war, are the truest patriots. In holding this convention at this time we do it with the conviction that we are not only serving the Church, but doing a patriotic duty. May we not ask our Leaguers to be just as patriotic and attend in great numbers? For general information read this issue of the REVIEW from cover to cover. I trust to meet many of the readers of this letter in Buffalo. You cannot afford to miss the convention.

Cordially yours,
HARRY HODGES,
General Secretary.

—

Sinners are blind (Rev. 3:17). Diseased in every way the wicked have the blindness of ignorance, the deafness of spiritual unconcern, the fever of impurity, the jaundice of malice, the swelling tympany (drumlike distention of the belly), the vertigo of inconstancy, the dropsy of covetousness, the palsy of stupidity, the rottenness of envy, the rheumatism of discontent, the delirium of constant levity, the moonstruck madness of passion and rage, hardness of heart, and the stings of conscience.

Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, Editor, Omaha, Nebraska; with W. C. Stoever, Litt.D., Philadelphia, Pa.; J. M. Reynolds, Valatie, N. Y.; I. S. Runyon, New York, N. Y.; A. T. Miehler, Philadelphia, Pa., *as special associates, and the co-operation of the Literature Committee of the Luther League of America.* Send all articles, communications and news items that concern the Editorial Department to the Editor, Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, 440 Paxton Block, Omaha, Nebraska.

Luther League Review

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IN THE INTERESTS OF
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Editorial

LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

These gatherings are the great events of the year. By and through these meetings a great deal of good is accomplished. Our duty is to carefully guard the development and undertakings of the convention, to see the mighty army of Christian youth, to hear them sing and speak of God's goodness is so refreshing. The future with its grave responsibilities appears bright when strong, capable and active young men and women are seen mobilized in the interest of God's kingdom. The one great purpose of these conventions must be to promote the distinctive object of the Luther League in its given sphere of work. The aim and purpose of Luther League conventions—a more accurate comprehension of the meaning of these assemblages as power stations along the path of life is needed to produce effective results. Luther League conventions must therefore guard against the possibility of going beyond their actual field of activity. It must not usurp the functions of the Church. It is not independent of the Church, but it is dependent upon the Church. The Luther League of America has always recognizer its proper relation to the Church, and those who have been charged with its organization and its direction have always been careful in developing the spiritual life, increasing youthful efficiency and rendering effective service to the Church to keep the movement near the Church. In short, it has endeavored to make the movement the Church working in and through and for its young people and to secure the closest relationship and render the League a most helpful agency in the work of the congregation.

THE LUTHER LEAGUE

It seems impossible to emphasize enough the federal character of the Luther League of America and its fundamental principle of co-operation. Let these principles be recognized. Membership of the Local and District Leagues carries with it membership in the National League. The Local League is entitled to one delegate; the District League is entitled to three delegates; and the State League is entitled to ten delegates in the convention of the Luther League of America. The promotion of the interests of the League is with the Federal Head. It is charged with the duty of providing the literature and outlining the lesson studies and reading courses for the Leaguers. As the representative body of Local, District and State Leagues, the Luther League of America is the guiding and directing head of the organization. Under its control and by its authority, direction is given to the great purposes of fostering loyalty and stimulating increased Christian activity. Its voice and its acts reach across State and District lines and affect the whole movement known as the Luther League. It should apply its powers and prayers and methods of work to promote the progress of the Church of which it is an auxiliary, and it should neither neglect nor pass by as unavailing any opportunity to advance the interests of the youth of the Church in the Redeemer's Kingdom.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Owing to the pressure of Convention Reports on the columns of the Review, it is necessary to discontinue the publication of the lists of names of Leaguers in the United States service.

Our Churches and Institutions

In Some of Our Large Cities

NEW YORK

—Rev. G. U. Wenner, D.D., pastor of Christ Church, New York City, has completed a manuscript for a history of "The Lutherans of New York, Their Story and Their Problems."

—Miss Margaret Finck, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Finck, of New Market, Va., has been elected assistant of the department of psychology in Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and will enter upon her duties next September. During the past year she was teacher of mathematics and psychology at St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. J.

—The National Lutheran War Commission has found it desirable to have its own bi-monthly magazine. The first number is most attractively illustrated and presented and contains the latest information concerning the manifold activities of our Lutheran work in behalf of soldiers' and sailors' welfare. Vol. I, No. 1, of *Our Lutheran Boys in the Army and Navy*, is a historic document and all friends of our sons in the service should at once send in their subscription to the office of the commission, 437 Fifth avenue, New York City. The price is nominal, only 25 cents per year.

—The National Lutheran Commission has received more than two-thirds of the war-time fund in cash and all subscribers to the fund are being asked to send in the amounts to the State chairman as pledges become due.

PHILADELPHIA

—The Ministerial Association of Philadelphia, at a recent meeting elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Rev. Dr. S. D. Daugherty; vice-president, Rev. Dr. F. Hartman; secretary, Rev. E. A. Charlin; treasurer, Rev. Daniel E. Rupley.

BALTIMORE

—The following legacies for religious and charitable purposes are contained in the will of the late Frederick P. Stieff, piano manufacturer, Baltimore, Md., probated in the Orphans' Court:

Deaconess' Board of the General Synod, $1,000. Mr. Stieff had been a member and treasurer of this board.

Council of First Church, to be invested and the income to maintain the library of the church, $1,000.

Home for Incurables, $1,000.

Aged Lutheran Home, in Washington, $1,000.

CHICAGO

—Prof. H. B. Reed, professor of Old Testament Exegesis in the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Carthage College at its recent commencement. Dr. Reed preached the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class at Carthage.

—Governor Lowden, of Illinois, in conveying his congratulations to the Lutherans, on the campaign for funds for religious work in the army camps under Lutheran auspices, wrote as follows: "We cannot be too liberal in our expenditures for the moral and spiritual welfare of our boys in camps and at the front. It gives me pleasure to mail you a check for $100 for the cause."

ST. PAUL

—Rev. L. F. Gruber, of St. Paul, Minn., had the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him by Muhlenberg College.

MISCELLANEOUS

—Prof. G. E. Gast, of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., has been elected successor of the late Prof. Dr. George H. Schodde at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. He has accepted and enters upon his duties next September.

—Rev. S. P. Long, D.D., canceled the debt on the First Church, Mansfield, Ohio, on Easter Sunday, prior to his early departure to his new field at Chicago.

—Rev. George H. Schnur, of Zelienople, Pa., delivered two lectures on "Church Architecture" before the students of Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio. Rev. Schnur has accepted a call to Grace Church, Erie, Pa. He is the statistician of the Pittsburgh Synod and displayed at the recent meeting of that synod a carefully prepared presentation of the activity of the 196 congregations of the "Missionary Synod."

—At the beginning of this world war there were seventy-two Lutheran pastors in France and eight in Algeria, a French possession in northern Africa. French Lutherans were supporting a deaconess home, a training school for nurses, four homes for aged, four orphans' homes and a home for apprentices, and engaged in various inner mission activities.

—The board of trustees of Newberry College at its annual meeting at Newberry, S. C., on June 3, elected Prof. S. J. Derrick as president of the college to succeed Rev. J. Henry Harms, D.D., who resigned several weeks ago in order to accept a call to the pastorate of the Church of the Holy Communion, Philadelphia.

(*Continued on page* 31.)

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Luther League

SEND IN THE NEWS—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

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Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and District of Columbia.

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NEW YORK

SYRACUSE DISTRICT

—Rev. Dr. H. G. Dalton celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of Zion's Church, Syracuse, recently. Dr. and Mrs. Dalton were presented with a gold watch and a purse of over $700.

The Luther League is a strong factor in the successful work of this church.

The pastoral work done during these twenty-five years is comprised in the following figures: 863 children baptized, 727 confirmed, 416 marriages performed, 683 funeral sermons preached, 16,921 people attended the Lord's Supper, 44,910 pastoral calls made, an average of 1,796 a year, 450 families connected with the church.

—The Luther League of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Liverpool, N. Y., Rev. A. F. Gillman, pastor, has presented the congregation with a service flag containing thirty-two stars. Out of this number our president and our three past presidents are serving their country. Our president, Mr. Carl A. Nowack, is with the 26th Co. 153 D. B. 7th Bn., Camp Dix, Trenton, N. J., and our former president, Mr. Gottlieb Lueck, is a sailor now stationed near Philadelphia; Mr. Fred P. Kies is with the 310th Inf. on his way to France; Mr. Carl V. Raupach is with the Engineers in France. The rest of our members are nearly all over there or on their way.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT

—The spring convention of the Philadelphia District Luther League was held in the Church of the Advent, Rev. C. Wilker, pastor, May 28. William H. Menges, president of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, and Rev. John Richards, pastor of St. Luke's Church, delivered addresses. An entertainment under the auspices of the Luther League of Philadelphia was given in the parish house of the Church of the Holy Communion recently. A feature of the program was a sketch, "The Obstinate Family." An entertainment was also given under the auspices of the Luther League of Philadelphia at Muhlenburg Memorial Church, at which the same sketch was presented.

—The regular annual outing of the Philadelphia District Luther League was held Saturday afternoon and evening, June 22, on the grounds of the Orphans' Home at Germantown.

Although the day was rather cool and cloudy, the Leaguers came out in goodly numbers and the usual sports, well organized and conducted, were much enjoyed by all.

As the day waned, the various boxes containing lunch appeared and the tired but happy participants satisfied their well earned appetites. The day had done much toward promoting good fellowship among the Leaguers.

—The spring convention of the Philadelphia District Luther League was held on Tuesday evening, May 28, in the Church of the Advent, Rev. C. Wilker, pastor.

Mr. William H. Menges, president of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, in his address appealed to the Leaguers for service in the church as well as in the nation, stating that the need and joy and reward for service in the church was even greater than that of the nation.

A special feature was the awarding of two Luther League flags, one to the League having the largest attendance from its church and one to the League having the largest percentage of attendance of its members. Salem League, of which the president of the district is a member, secured both banners, but very generously divided with Zion Luther League, which had the second highest percentage of attendance.

Letters were sent to Mr. Carl Fromuth, vice-president, and Mr. H. H. Silling, statistical secretary, both of whom are in the service of the Government.

The committee having charge of the special entertainment to reduce the deficit in the treasury, reported the net proceeds to be $77.15.

The following delegates were elected to the State convention: Messrs. Guss, Kohler, Heinz, Schmidt and Sithy.

The duly elected delegates to the national convention were Mr. H. Heinz, Miss Ida Zinser and Mr. F. Leupold.

PITTSBURGH

—The first annual presidential dinner of the Pittsburgh District Luther League was given in Hotel Chatham, Thursday evening, June 20. Rev. N. E. Yeiser gave the invocation. The address of welcome was by Rev. L. W. Rupp. Rev. J. L. Shaud acted as toastmaster. Toasts were responded to by Rev. Charles M. Teufel, "What of the Future"; Mr. Charles W. Fuhr, "Our Junior Intermediate Work"; Mr. D. A. Kommel, "Our Aims and Plans"; "Our State and National Conventions," Mr. K. J. F. Wilharm, vice-president of the Luther League of Pennsylvania. Mr. C. W. Herman Hess conducted a question box. Rev. F. W. Richter pronounced the benediction.

—Mr. Darwin Agustus Kommel and Miss Ada Margaret Yeager were married Tuesday, June 6, at Monaca, Pa. The LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW extends its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Kommel.

—Rev. F. W. Kohler, pastor of Trinity Church, New Brighton, reports that the Luther League has raised $211.75 during the past year, of which $120 was invested in the new common service book with hymnal.

—Mr. Nelson Marcus, chairman of the press committee of our district, has enlisted in the service of his country and is now stationed at Washington, D. C.

—Mr. Louis Lenhart, who enlisted in the Signal Corp about two years ago, and has seen service in France, is reported as being held a prisoner in Germany. Mr. Lenhart was formerly our efficient chairman of Branch No. 7.

—D. A. Kommel, president of this district, has moved from Monaca and his address now is 1669 Jancey street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

—W. J. P. Meng, vice-president, has resigned on account of having been sent to Erie by the Standard Manufacturing Company, where he will locate permanently.

—The Four-Cities Luther League, a local organization composed of the Leagues of Char-

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roi, Donora, Monessen and Monongehala, Pa., et in Grace Church, Monongahela, Pa., re- ently with large attendance. A conference on eague work, touching especially "How to En- st and Hold Members," "The Social Side of e League" and "The Advantages of a Boys' lass" proved very helpful. Rev. E. H. Al- recht addressed the rally on "My Vision of the uture of the Lutheran Church in America." wards for excellence of achievement gave the enior banner to Charleroi and the Junior pen- ant to Donora.

THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

—The fifty-first semi-annual convention of he Northeastern District of the Pennsylvania ivision of Luther Leagues was held June 6, 918, in St. John's Church, Naticoke, Pa. Rev. . J. Neudoerffer, pastor of the church, deliv- red the address of welcome, to which Mr. Ar- hur H. Getz, president of the district, respond- d. Mr. R. Reichenbacher, of Honesdale, was lected president.

Rev. P. N. Wohlsen, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., ead a paper on "The Success of the Northeast- rn District League During the Past Twenty- ive years." Miss Brenda Mehlhouse, of Norris- own, spoke on Junior work. Interesting papers were read and discussed at the afternoon session n The Live Luther League: 1. In the Con- regation; 2, Distributing His Money; 3, And he Diaconate; 4, And the Call to the Minis- ry. The executive committee was asked to se- ure a representative of the Deaconess Mother- ouse to present the cause of deaconess work t the next convention of this district. A com- ittee was appointed to bring the matter of unior League work to the attention of the ocal Leagues. At the evening session Mr. William H. Menges, president of the State uther League, and Rev. William F. Heldt, resident of the Wilkes-Barre Conference of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, delivered ad- resses to a large and attentive audience.

THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

—The twenty-sixth annual convention of the District Luther League of Northwestern Penn- sylvania was held in St. Paul's Lutheran hurch, Du Bois, Rev. R. D. Roeder, pastor, on June 25, 26 and 27. The features of the open- ng session on Tuesday evening were the presi- ent's address, greetings and reports from the Leagues, and the reading of letters of greeting rom State and national League officers. The econd session, on Wednesday morning, was aken up by business and by a Junior League conference, led by Rev. H. B. Ernest, of Erie. At the afternoon session on Wednesday, the officers of the district and others gave a model League demonstration, in which over fifteen per- sons took active part. This was followed by a Senior League conference, led by Mr. W. O. Ettinger, Warren. The feature of the Wednes- day evening session was the address on "Our Young People and the War," by Dr. H. W. Elson, president of Thiel College. The closing session on Thursday morning was devoted to business. The per capita dues for the next year were fixed at 25 cents. A committee was appointed to revise the constitution of the dis- trict League. The treasurer's report showed that all of the Leagues in the district have paid their dues and Jubilee Fund in full except two; and that the district has paid the State treasurer the 1918 State and national dues and the dis- trict's Jubilee Fund apportionment in full. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Roy C. Beaver, Greenville; vice-president, W. O. Ettinger, Warren; secre- tary, Miss Mary M. Schueltz, Warren; treas- urer, Miss Clara Schutz, Meadville.

SCHUYLKILL DISTRICT

—The twenty-fifth annual convention of the District Luther League of Schuylkill County, Pa., was held in Frieden's Church, Hegins, Pa., Rev. M. W. Krause, pastor, on June 6. The opening addresses were delivered by Dr. F. P. Barndt and President Leon M. Brobst. Two new Leagues were received, St. James', Pitman, and St. John's, Auburn. The theme of the con- vention was "The Place of the Luther League in Congregational Activity." The various phases of this subject were discussed by Mr. L. Reed, of Minersville; Rev. I. H. Kern, S.T.D., of Mahanoy City, and Rev. E. P. Xan- der, of Valley View. At the evening session the speakers were Rev. Ira F. Frankenfield, on "The Lutheran Church in the Present National Crisis," and Rev. C. H. Hemsath on "The Lutheran Church in the Virgin Islands." The new officers of the League are: President, Leon M. Brobst; vice-presidents, F. L. Brown, James Morgan and G. A. Berner; recording secretary, LeRoy Reed; corresponding secretary, Miss Hattie Henry; treasurer, Miss Irene Flug. The next convention will be held in St. John's Church, Tamaqua, Rev. A. E. Schmitthenner, pastor.

UPPER LEHIGH VALLEY

—On May 7 and 8 the Upper Lehigh Valley District Luther League held its forty-fifth semi- annual convention in St. John's Lutheran Church at East Mauch Chunk. The theme of the convention was "Action." More than fifty delegates and pastors took part in the day ses- sions. The Senior League of St. Paul's Church, Rev. Frederick, pastor, was received into mem- bership.

The newly elected officers of the district are: President,, Arthur Heidenreich, Hazleton, Pa.; vice-president, George Smith, East Mauch Chunk, Pa.; secretary, Frieda Komatowski, Lehighton, Pa.; treasurer, Myrtle Heidenreich, Freeland, Pa.; statistician, Ellis Stauffer, Audenried, Pa.

The topics "Youth," "League Opportunities," "Deeds Not Works," were discussed in detail during the afternoon session. The League de- cided to send a letter to every one of its boys in the service and to form and keep up to date an honor roll. It was also decided to hold a district rally and picnic. Two sectional rallies are to be held the last week of June.

The address of the evening was given by Dr. Wagner, of Hazleton, Pa. Dr. Wagner said: "We are all sent with a purpose and that pur- pose is in harmony with the purposes of the lives of our fellow human beings, so we may increase our usefulness by co-operating with them in carrying it out. If you are called to the ministry there is your place and not else- where. Life is not a game of money making. To whom much is given will much be expected. The power that comes from wealth is intended to be used in doing good. Success is weighed in a moral balance. There is no joy that never wears out except the joy that comes from doing others good. Let us substitute the greatness of love for the love of greatness."

On the following morning the affairs of the district were again thoroughly discussed. What encouragement the League can give the young

men for the ministry was also discussed. The convention adjourned at noon. Delegates spent the afternoon in viewing the scenery of the convention town, often called the Alps of America.

INDIANA

—The Richmond District Luther League held its spring convention at the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Anderson, Ind., Rev. E. F. Valbrecht, pastor, June 2.

Miss Mary Fisher, Lyonsville, read an interesting paper on "Qualifications of a Model Luther League." Rev. E. F. Valbrecht gave a very excellent talk on "Debt of the Church to the Luther League." The different points brought out in his talk were along educational, benevolent and social lines. A very appropriate paper for present conditions, "Religion and Patriotism," was read by Miss Katherine Henze, Elwood. Mr. O. C. C. Fetta, president of Indiana State League, was called upon to address the convention. Mr. William Kaufman, of Anderson, read a well prepared paper on "Encouraging the Use of the Bible Among the Young People."

Rev. Edwin Thomas, Guntur, India, and Mr. Humpe, Kokomo, were present and were called upon to address the convention.

A short business session followed at which the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Emory Scholl, Lyonsville; vice-president, Mr. McPherson, Richmond; recording secretary, Miss Gertrude Plotner, Anderson; corresponding secretary, Miss Agnes Meerhoff, Richmond; treasurer, Mr. Jesse Heard, Elwood.

A splendid, model devotional meeting was held. The topic for the evening was "Repentance vs. Penance," well presented by Miss Lavina Steen, Richmond.

A very timely subject for the evening sermon by Rev. F. M. Hanes, Pershing, was "Service."

ILLINOIS

—The wedding of Mr. William F. Kanies, Jr., and Miss Elizabeth Soderholm took place on May 25. Mr. Kanies left the following week to join Company M, 35th Infantry, at Globe, Ariz. Mr. and Mrs. Kanies have always taken an active part in Luther League work and were active members of Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church. Mrs. Kanies is secretary of the Luther League of Illinois. The REVIEW extends its best wishes.

CHICAGO DISTRICT

—Bethel Church—Tuesday evening, May 14, the Luther League gave a reception for the confirmation class. A large number were present and a good program was rendered. Mr. Raymond Rimholtzen was the speaker of the evening and acquitted himself with great credit. Refreshments were served and a good time was enjoyed. May the new confirmation class be a faithful and valuable asset to the Luther League.

—Chicago church clubs have an athletic association and the Luther League Nines are still sailing along successfully. Standing of the teams in the Lutheran Baseball League:

SOUTHERN SECTION.

	Won.	Lost.	Per cent.
Immanuel	7	1	.875
St. Simon	5	2	.714
Peoples	5	2	.714
Thomas Memorial	4	2	.667
Olivet Institute	2	6	.250
St. Mathew	1	7	.125

NORTHERN SECTION.

Luther Memorial	7	1	.875
Holy Cross	6	2	.750
Calvary	5	3	.625
Emmanuel	3	5	.375
Christ Church	2	6	.250
Trinity	1	7	.125

All of the teams in the Cook County Lutheran League, the leading local church club organization, are still sailing along successfully despite the fact that war during the last two or three months has taken sixty-seven players from the various nines. The managers have replenished their lineups with "below the draft" age talent and every week end sees each of the twelve clubs in a battle. The Luther Memorials lead in the northern section and Immanuels in the southern division, each having won seven contests and lost one.

Batsmen of the Thomas Memorial Congregational team knocked their way to an 8 to 2 victory over the St. Simon nine recently at Humboldt Park. The winners nicked the delivery of Borch for half of their total number of hits before the second round was over and compelled that hurler to retire from the rubber in favor of Olsen. Six scattered hits were all the defeated players could make off Umlor in the nine rounds. Sweetman, Steward and Umlor starred at bat.

A strong ninth inning rally that put two runs over the pan netted victory for the St. Andrews Juniors, 8 to 7, in their contest against the Bethel team at McKinley Park. F. Bijeck led the swatting, contributing a home run, triple and double when such hits were most needed. The contest was scheduled under the jurisdiction of the Evangelical Lutheran Junior League.

Another Evangelical Lutheran Junior League contest resulted in the defeat of the Grace Church youngsters, 21 to 10, in a swatfest by the Peace Church players at West Thirty-first street and South Kostner avenue. Methling and Nienstadt, who pitched for the Grace team, were punctured for twenty-two safeties. Splitts, of the winners, connected with the sphere four different times, leading in the onslaught.

Ascension Lutheran Juniors swamped the Calvary nine 22 to 6 at Lincoln Park. Raymond shone in the hitting line for the winners.

NORTH CAROLINA

—The District Luther League met at Salisbury, June 19, 20 and 21. Twelve out of twenty-one Leagues sent delegates. About one hundred were in attendance. Two local Leagues were organized during the past six months and admitted into the district League. Concrete action was taken toward the organization of a local League in every congregation in the State and toward the organization of a State League in the fall. Mr. Jesse C. Sigmon is president of this district. Among the addresses delivered were these on the following topics: "Why You Should Be a Member of the Luther League," "The Luther Leagues Value in Training for Service," "The Luther League as an Educational Force," "The League Topics and Theological Truths," and "Nobility of Youthful Service."

SOUTH DAKOTA

—Miss Laura Oline Stavig and Dr. Alfred R. Sorbel were married Tuesday, May 28, at Sisseton, S. Dak. Miss Stavig was active in Luther League work in South Dakota. Her new home will be in Wheaton, Minn. The LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW joins with many friends in presenting its congratulations.

—A Luther League with a charter membership of sixty was organized at Spencer on April by the pastor loci, Rev. G. Bessler.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

—The Luther League Central held its quarterly meeting in Zion Church, June 11. Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary, made a telling address on "The Luther League, a Training Camp for Service," and Rev. H. H. Beidleman spoke earnestly on his work as camp pastor. After the meeting a brief business session was held when the following were elected delegates to the thirteenth national convention of the Luther League, at Buffalo, N. Y., August 27 to 29: Mr. Hans Cammerer, Miss Barbara Wieland and Rev. J. Twele; each individual League or Endeavor Society is likewise expected to send a delegate.

OREGON

—A delegation from the Luther League of the Memorial Lutheran Church, Astoria, Ore., went to Ft. Stevens on a recent Sunday afternoon and conducted a devotional League service for the soldiers there. They sang several hymns in each of the several wards of the post hospital.

The party left Astoria on a Government boat and returned by train in time for the evening church service. The young people's meeting was held in the Y. M. C. A. building under the auspices of that organization. It was well attended by a large number of the soldiers, many of whom proved to be Lutherans from different parts of the country.

CALIFORNIA

—Rev. J. W. Ball, Ph.D., pastor of St. Mark's Church, Los Angeles, has organized a very promising Luther League.

CANADA

—The Luther League of Canada held its eleventh annual convention in St. Paul's Church, Galt, Ontario, May 24 and 25. At the evening rally Friday evening Rev. John Schmieder, now pastor of St. Mathew's Church, Kitchener, was the principal speaker. Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary of the Luther League of Ameica, attended the convention and conducted several conferences.

WINNIPEG

—The Luther League of the First English Lutheran Church, in charge of the Rev. M. J. Bieber, D.D., Eastern District Superintendent of English Home Missions, is forging ahead. It recently completed the payment on a $250 piano and took a prominent part in rendering the missionary pageant, "Christ in Canada." During the absence of the pastor at the convention of the Synod of the Northwest, the League had charge of the service and at its monthly meeting, on June 11, at the request of the pastor, decided to conduct a devotional meeting in place of the Vesper Service during the first Sunday of each month at least during the summer season. It also decided to hold its monthly business and social meetings in the open air (parks, etc.).

Twenty-two of its members are in the draft and more will shortly leave, which will remove every young man of military age from the congregation and the League. Pastor Bieber is a member of the executive committee of the Luther League of America and was elected a delegate to represent the Canada Luther League at the coming international convention at Buffalo.

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OUR CHURCHES AND INSTITUTIONS

(*Continued from page* 25.)

—Rev. U. H. Graves, former pastor of the First English Lutheran Church, Schenectady, died April 13 at Johnstown, N. Y. He was a charter member of the Luther League of New York State, for many terms a member of the State executive committee, and always active in its work. He is survived by his widow and one son.

—Mr. I. Searles Runyon, of the editorial staff of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, has been commissionad a "Lay Reader" by the Southern Conference, Synod of New York.

—Rev. John W. Horine, D.D., was elected the third professor in the Theological Seminary of the United Synod at Columbia, S. C. He will have charge of exegetical theology, but will continue as editor of the *Lutheran Church Visitor*.

—The Lutheran churches in California are keeping record of the amounts of Liberty Loan subscribed, a few reports of which are at hand: St. Mark's German Church, San Francisco, far beyond $50,000; St. Matthew's German Church, San Francisco, and St. Mark's Church, Los Angeles, $12,000 each; Christ Church, Alameda, and First Church, Oakland, each about $10,000, and others are doing as well.

—The North Manchester congregation is responding to the various calls of the church and because of the substantiality of its members it is exerting a salutary influence in the city. The pastor was the instructor in the Bible in the high school during the year and preached the baccalaureate sermon.

—The women of Zion congregation are taking a leading part in the Red Cross work and other patriotic service. Mr. Peter B. Young, who died recently, left the congregation $200, and $50 each to the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Foreign Missions.

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WAR GARDENS

The Food Administrator recently sent out a letter to his aids in the State organizations of the Food Administration in which he said:

"The extensive use of suburban gardens for planting last year proved of extreme importance in increasing the national food supply.

"Even with the car shortage which has developed during the last three months and the total inability to move any large reserves of potatoes and beans, we have been saved from positive shortages throughout the country largely by virtue of the accumulated household stores which are the results of home endeavor."

Luther League Topics

Fourteenth Sunday
after Trinity. September 1, 1918.

VACATION EXPERIENCES AND THEIR LESSONS
(Sociological)

Mark 6:30-32.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, I Tim. 6:1-21; evening, Isa. 6:1-13.

Tuesday—Morning, II Tim. 1:1-18; evening, Amos 7:7-17.

Wednesday—Morning, II Tim. 2:1-26; evening, II Kings 16:1-20.

Thursday—Morning, Titus 1:1-16; evening, II Kings 17:1-23.

Friday—Morning, Titus 2:1-10; evening, II Kings 18:1-37.

Saturday—Morning, Titus 2:15, 3:3; evening, II Kings 19:1-37.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Hymn No. 51. Opening service in Hymnal.

Read responsively Ps. 19. Prayer. Hymn No. 55.

Read the Scripture lesson and present the discussion of the topic. Hymn No. 43.

Have several people give short talks on each of the following topics: How my vacation made me realize the more the greatness of God through nature. How the people whom I met helped me, spiritually. The lesson in the accident. How was I better fitted to carry on my work after my vacation than before? What constitutes a real vacation?

The following poem will be appreciated by the nature lover:

"A mist on the fair horizon,
The infinite, tender sky,
The ripe, rich tints of the cornfields
And the wild geese sailing high;
And all over upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod;
Some people call it Autumn,
And others call it God."

Hymn No. 53. Benediction.

(Topic reviewed by Prof. H. G. Deininger.)

A charm for every one seems to lie in the word "vacation." It brings to mind one's many delightful memories and experiences of past vacations. How different they have been! On thinking over this subject, experiences, varying as to individual and as to season and place, crowd our minds and we wonder what there is that we have all felt. Just a few can be presented here.

I. *God Is.*—The first great impression that comes out of days at the shore, mountains or country is a deeper knowledge of the existence of God. There are men who deny that there is a God. But who can daily live with nature or spend their vacation with nature and yet fail to believe in God?

After we have watched the growing trees, the unfolding plants, the ever changing ocean, the beautiful clouds and landscapes and all the other wonderful works of nature, we must see in it God.

II. *God's Assurances.*—The ever constant and certain laws of nature, the sureness with which each season follows the other in regular order, and the certainty that day will follow the night are evidences that God's promises will be fulfilled. The birds that we have seen flying on their way to the south in search of warmth and food always find it waiting them year after year. They are never disappointed. Their migratory instinct which they inherited never wavers and God never fails them.

If in these things in nature that we observe on our vacations God has never failed, then it is just as certain and sure that He will not fail to keep His promises to us. God has made many promises to man and kept all in due time. (Matt. 11:28, 28:20.)

III. *God's Love.*—Standing on the dock beside the great ocean greyhound ready to carry us on our vacation trip, we look upon the steamship as a tremendous, marvelous work of man and man seems a great giant. Yet, a few days later when we are standing on its deck out in the ocean, we see a sister ship a little distance away. How small it seems compared to the limited waters in sight. What was tremendous in the dock now seems so small. God's handiwork, the ocean, seems a slumbering giant that could, alas! often does, with one small effort destroy the mightiest of man's work.

And how small man himself seems; a mere speck on the steamer itself. We look and wonder and then there passes through our mind the words of the psalmist, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him?" One has this same feeling of littleness when on the mountain tops or beside the great canyons of the West.

With one sweep of nature's forces man's labors of years and mightiest products are made as nothing. And yet for mere man, God gave the greatest gift of all ages, Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. A love so great, so boundless, so inexhaustible must impress us and make us His servants. Surely we must love Him and obey Him. "This Thou hast done for me. What have I done for Thee?"

IV. *A League Convention.*—Many Leaguers arrange to include a League convention in their vacation. At such conventions we forget our little failures or learn how to correct them; the successes of others inspire us to greater efforts; the convention enthusiasm seizes hold on us and we return to our League work more determined,

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and review) in 32-page pamphlet covering three months can be supplied at rates given on page 26 by LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, 318-326 West 39th Street, New York City.

strengthened, enthused. We labor in the Church with a broader and deeper vision of the meaning of our own task and of the Church's purpose. The torch of our own life purpose has been rekindled and ours in turn is the task of enthusing and enlightening our co-workers.

Discussions.—Vacations unprofitably spent. Promises fulfilled. Promises of the future. The value of a convention.

Bible References.

Deut. 6:6-9; II Sam. 5:24; I Chron. 12:32; II Chron. 18:33; II Cor. 1:2; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5, 6; II Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:13.

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity. September 8, 1918.

THE LEAGUE HELPING CHURCH ATTENDANCE

(Foreign Missionary)

Heb. 10:23-25.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Titus 3:8-15; evening, II Kings 20:1-21.

Tuesday—Morning, Phile. 1:25: evening, II Kings 21:1-26.

Wednesday—Morning, Heb. 1:1-14; evening, II Chron. 34:1-33.

Thursday—Morning, Heb. 2:5, 3:6; evening, II Chron. 35:20, 36:10.

Friday—Morning, Heb. 4:14, 5:14; evening, Jer. 22:1-30.

Saturday—Morning, Heb. 6:1-20; evening, Jer. 25:1-14.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Open with hymn. Psalm No. 122, and prayer for greater activity among the Leaguers.

Singing, No. 227. Scripture lesson, Heb. 10:23-25, read by leader, after which the topic may be opened by pastor, in a brief talk on "Service."

Paper or talk on "Why Have the League?" by a member.

Recitation:

CHRIST WANTS THE BEST.

Christ wants the best. He in the far-off ages
Once claimed the firstling of the flock, the finest of the wheat,
And still He asks His own with gentlest pleading
To lay their highest hopes and brightest talents at His feet.
He'll not forget the feeblest service, humblest love.
He only asks that of our store we give to Him
The best we have.

Christ gives the best. He takes the hearts we offer
And fills them with His glorious beauty, joy and peace.
And in His service, as we're growing stronger,
The calls to grand achievements still increase.
The richest gifts for us on earth, or in the heavens above,
Are hid in Christ. In Jesus we receive
The best we have.

Topic presented by one of the members. Leader should make clear that the League membrs can help to fill the church pews. On the blackboard should be written in large letters the word SERVICE for the Church and Christ's Kingdom.

Singing, hymn selected. Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

(Topic reviewed by Minnie L. Boedeker.)

The Luther League, using for its motto, "Of the Church, by the Church and for the Church," truly lives up to its motto, inasmuch as it does help to increase the church attendance.

The Luther League Topics are studied by the majority of Leagues. These Topics use as a basis the Word of God, in this way preparing Luther Leaguers to take an active part and interest in the church services, because the more one learns of the Word of God the more one wants to learn.

The Luther League instills Christian activity in the young people, and so naturally increases the Church attendance.

The Luther League fosters loyalty to the Word of God and to the Church. A loyal Luther Leaguer could not be otherwise than a loyal church member.

Keeping the Confirmants Loyal to the Church.

One of the objects of the Luther League is to take care of the newly confirmed and as a rule receptions are held right after confirmation time in honor of this band of young people received into the Church every year. It is then the duty of the Luther League to see that they remain faithful. By making the meetings interesting and giving these new members something definite to do, such as committee work, minor offices, etc., they become good Luther Leaguers and in turn good church members.

Taking Care of Strangers.

One of the vital duties of the Luther League is to take care of the strangers in our midst. Very often young people move into a neighborhood, look up the nearest Lutheran church and come to one of the services. If they are accorded a friendly welcome, they will come again; if, as oftentimes happens, no one speaks to them, they seek some other church, many times not even of their own faith—so we lose them.

The Luther League should either have a regular committee to look after these strangers, or each one should obligate himself or herself to talk to any strangers they may see at the church services, and either invite them to the next meeting of the Luther League or to the regular church services, and then later get them to join the League.

The Luther League of Chicago has a baseball league, and some of the local Leagues have made a practice of not allowing a young man to be a member of their team unless he attends at least two services a month. This is making church attendance compulsory, you might say. Perhaps so—but why shouldn't we be obligated to attend a certain number of services a month? Surely it does no harm, and once we acquire the habit, it usually grows and then stays with us. In several instances

this has brought new members to the church, as sometimes boys join the League merely to be able to play on the baseball team. If no one urged them to go to church they would probably be satisfied just to belong to the team, but being urged to attend the church services many times made better boys of them.

How a Luther League Saved a Church.

Several years ago, the writer, at a banquet of the Luther League of Chicago, heard an address called "How a Luther League Saved a Church." The gentleman making the address told how a church on the North Side was struggling for its very existence. The members seemed somehow to drift away and there were very few of the old families remaining faithful, but the young people remained true, the Luther League continued to hold its meetings, continued to give money to the cause, the young people attended the services, and gradually built up the church, until today they have a splendid new church building. The present pastor has been there for more than two years and will probably be there a great deal longer.

The Luther League is a very important factor of this church and the pastor is very proud of his young people.

Luther Leaguers in Strange Cities.

It should be the object of the Luther League to keep a watch on the Luther Leaguer traveling from place to place. Many an interested Luther Leaguer upon reaching a strange city will make inquiry and finally locate a Luther League, attend the meeting and if he finds it interesting will of course come again or as often as possible during his stay.

Bible References.

Heb. 11:6; Jno. 5:39; Matt. 6:13-16; Col. 3:17; Rom. 14:23; Jno. 10:27; II Cor. 10:12; Rom. 3:4; I Jno. 5:10, 11; Jno. 15:8; Rom. 10:8-10; Gal. 5:13-16; Heb. 10:25.

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Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity. September 15, 1918.

FIRST SYNOD IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

(Historical—September 14, 1818, Centennial of Joint Synod of Ohio)

Acts 11:1-4, 18.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Heb. 7:1-28; evening, Jer. 37:1-21.

Tuesday—Morning, Heb. 8:1-13; evening, Jer. 38:1-28.

Wednesday—Morning, Heb. 9:1-10; evening, Jer. 32:1-44.

Thursday—Morning, Heb. 9:16-28; evening, Jer. 39:1-18.

Friday—Morning, Heb. 10:1-34; evening, Jer. 29:1-23.

Saturday—Morning, Heb. 11:1-7; evening, Dan. 1:1-21.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Open with the usual order of service given in the Luther League Hymnal. Select familiar hymns.

Psalm 46.

Gloria Patri.

Scripture lesson read by the leader.

Arrange for some special music.

Have several members to give the summary of the discussion in both the *Topics* and the REVIEW.

Ask the pastor to make a brief address. Consult the Lutheran Cyclopedia and Distinctive Doctrines and Usages of the Lutheran Church.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. L. H. Schuh, Ph.D.)

I. *Historical.*—Toward the close of the eighteenth century immigrants passed over the Allegheny Mountains in search of homes in what is now eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Many of these pioneers were Lutherans. The "mother synod," the Pennsylvania Synod, sent preachers after them to minister to their spiritual needs and to establish congregations among them. As early as 1791 we know that Rev. John Stauch was at work in Washington County, Pa. He was a saintly man with a missionary spirit. Rev. George Foster was another of the Pennsylvania pioneers. He was active over in Ohio. By 1812 the number of these pioneer preachers had increased to twelve and they formed a special conference. By 1818 their number had increased to eighteen and in that year, at Somerset, Ohio, they organized a synod which has come to be called the Joint Synod of Ohio, whose centennial will be observed this year and which is the oldest Lutheran synod in the Mississippi Valley.

II. *Growth.*—The growth of this body has been steady, but at no time phenomenal. It now extends over all parts of the Union and has a small following in Australia. The Joint Synod of Ohio meets once in two years as a delegate body and is presided over by a president who devotes his time exclusively to its oversight. The body is divided into ten districts, which meet annually, each of which has a president of its own but who holds this office in connection with a pastorate. The names of the ten districts indicate their geographical location: The Eastern, the Western, the Northern, the Wisconsin, the Minnesota, the Washington, the Kansas-Nebraska, the Texas, the English, the Concordia, the Canada and the Australian.

The following statistics will show the present strength of the body: Pastors, 690; congregations connected with synod, 634, but 289 others are served by synodical pastors; missions, 156; souls, 206,198; communicants, 139,015; children baptized in 1917, 8,810; children confirmed, 5,198; teachers in parochial schools, 164; pupils in same schools, 9,391; Sunday schools, 723; teachers in Sunday school, 4,496; pupils in same schools, 63,460. Its church buildings,

arsonages, school houses and other prop-rties are estimated at $7,390,973. Its total ontribution for congregational, foreign, ome and negro missions, together with sun-ry items of expense, was $211,615.26. Its hurch building fund had $170,090.18, but o this sum must be added $290,000, the pro-eeds of its Quadricentennial offering.

The story of the mustard seed has repeat-d itself. While other synods organized ater and whose lot has fallen into better issionary territory have outstripped the hio Synod there is much reason for thanks-iving and it will be rendered abundantly t the celebrations that will be held during 918.

III. *Doctrinal Basis.*—The Synod accepts ll the canonical books of the Old and New estaments as the only norm and guide in natters of faith. It subscribes to all the onfessions of the Church as these are col-ected in the Book of Concord. It recog-izes the Augsburg Confession as the chief ne. It considers the Confessions to be an nterpretation of biblical teaching.

Because of its doctrinal basis, which in pirit is conservative and aims to be his-orically true, the Synod is an independent ody. It was at one time a member of the Synodical Conference, but during the heated redestination controversy its connection vas servered. It stands in friendly rela-ions with the Iowa Synod. It is not a nember of the "Merger." It invites con-erence with all Lutheran bodies, seeks a rue unity rather than a union and is will-ng to fraternize with Lutherans upon the asis of agreement in doctrine and practice.

The Synod accepts the Galesburg rules; it holds that Lutheran altars are for Lu-theran communicants only and that Luthe-ran pulpits are for Lutheran pastors only, and its practice conforms to its teaching. The Synod opposes secret societies. It does not fellowship with churches of other de-nominations.

IV. *Institutions.*—In 1830 the need for more pastors in the growing missionary field in the Northwest territory was so great that the founders of the Synod re-solved to establish a theological seminary. The action was taken at Zanesville, Ohio, and the school came into existence at Can-ton, Ohio, where its first professor, Rev. W. Schmidt, lived. He agreed to serve two years without salary. The school started in the living room of a dwelling and had one teacher, two students and the earnest prayer of a young Church. Soon it was moved to Columbus, Ohio. After twenty years a college, which was to be a feeder of the seminary, was incorporated. The school today has seventeen professors and assistants, and 250 students, of whom 80 per cent. have the Lutheran ministry in view. Its buildings and grounds are valued at $155,000 and its endowment is more than $200,000.

The Synod owns and controls a similar but younger institution at St. Paul, Minn., a teachers' seminary at Woodville, Ohio, academies at Hebron, Neb., and at Melville, Canada.

It has one of the most up-to-date book houses at Columbus, Ohio. This institution owns its own business block and expends its net profits of $30,000 for various forms of Church work. It turns out a large volume of Church literature in both German and English and is doing much to develop an American Lutheran literature.

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Seventeenth Sunday
after Trinity. September 22, 1918.

ONE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Jno. 10:15 (R. V.)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Heb. 11:17-40; evening, Dan. 3:1-30.

Tuesday—Morning, Heb. 12:1-17; evening, Dan. 4:1-37.

Wednesday—Morning, Heb. 13:1-25; evening, Dan. 5:1-30.

Thursday—Morning, Jas. 1:1-15; evening, Dan. 5:31, 6:28.

Friday—Morning, Jas. 2:1-3; evening, Ezra 1:1-11.

Saturday—Morning, Jas. 2:14-26; evening, Ezra 3:1-13.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Hymn, "I Love Thy Zion, Lord," No. 208.

Psalm 149, followed with Bible texts as follows: "Body of Christ," Eph. 1:23; "Bride," Rev. 21:2; "Building of God," Cor. 3:9; "Mt. Zion," Heb. 12:22; "Kingdom of Heaven," Matt. 13:38. These texts to be read by two or three Leaguers.

Singing, No. 23, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty."

Repeating Creed. Presentation of topic by leader, referring to statistics previously written on blackboard.

Discussion of Topic. Chanting Lord's Prayer and singing Doxology.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Prof. Holmes Dysinger, D.D., LL.D., Dean of the Western Theological Seminary of Midland College.)

In the New Testament the word church is used in two senses. The one as applied to a local congregation, as the Church in Jerusalem, or as embracing all the congregations in a particular territory, as "the Church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria." But the primary biblical conception of the Church is that of an assembly or congregation composed of all who believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world, and who confess Him as such.

1. The foundation, therefore, upon which the Church rests is Christ, and there is none other laid. Besides, Christ died that He might redeem men. He was the good

shepherd that gave his life for the sheep. Whatever claims any other organization may make, unless it rests upon Christ as its foundation and accepts Him as Saviour, it has no right to be called a church, especially in the biblical sense of that term. Moreover, Christ is head of the Church. Accordingly the true Church is made up of all those who accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and who recognize His headship over all. The Church is the communion of saints, the entire body of "believing children of God throughout the entire world, who are united by an invisible bond."

2. The distinguishing external characteristic of the Church is that it is the assembly in which "the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered." Wherever there is true faith, it will find expression and lead to some form of organization. Hence we have the distinction generally made between the Church visible and the Church invisible. By the former is meant the Church "considered as an external organization with its ministry of Word and Sacraments—the body of professing Christians, among whom may be some hypocrites or wicked persons with no true faith or real union with Christ"; while the latter signifies "the body of real believers within this outward fellowship, who constitute the true spiritual body or congregation of Christ." Wherever the Church exists there is the Word of God. So Christ's followers hear His voice and obey His word. Moreover, God's Word does not return unto Him void, but accomplishes His pleasure and fulfils His purpose. Likewise it is the Church that is cleansed by the washing of water with the Word, and that partakes of the Sacrament of the Altar in remembrance of Christ. Accordingly the external marks of the Church center in the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments.

3. The essential unity of the Church consists in faith in Christ. "All the regenerate children of God have an inner union and communion with one another through their common faith in Christ, a common love enkindled by this faith and a presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in their hearts, uniting them into one mystical body." "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd." (Jno. 10:16.)

Gerhard, the great theologian, says of the Church, "It is called one, because, brought by one Lord, through one baptism, into one mystical body, under one head, it is ruled by one Spirit, is bound together by the unity of faith, hope and love, professes on faith and is called by one calling to one heavenly inheritance."

4. This one Christian Church is holy. This does not mean that the Church has attained unto perfect holiness, but that it is in the process of sanctification. "All believing and regenerate persons constituting the Church are subjects of the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, and taken together constitute a holy or sanctified organism." The consummation is to reveal a perfect Church without a stain. "Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the Church to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25-27.)

There is one holy Christian Church built upon Christ, through whom it offers salvation to all men.

Bible References.

Ps. 133:1; Jno. 10:16; Jno. 17:22, 23; Rom. 12:4, 5; I Cor. 10:17; Col. 3:11, 15; Eph. 4:5, 6.

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. September 29, 1918.

THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD

II Tim. 3:14-17.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Jas. 3:1-18; evening, Ezra 4:1-24.
Tuesday—Morning, Jas. 4:1, 5-6; evening, Hag. 1:1-15.
Wednesday—Morning, Jas. 5:12-20; evening, Ezra 5:1-17.
Thursday—Morning, I Pet. 3:1-7; evening, Ezra 6:1-22.
Friday—Morning, I Pet. 3:15-22; evening, Ezra 7:1-28.
Saturday—Morning, I Pet. 5:1-4; evening, Ezra 8:31, 9:15.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Follow the opening service in the Luther League Hymnal, using Hymns 174 and 70.

At this meeting it would perhaps be most fitting to have a paper prepared on the translation of the Bible and the events leading up to the translation of the Book of Books. This paper could be best prepared by your pastor or some one who has made a study of Luther.

At this meeting it would not be amiss to make plans for providing the soldier boys of your church with Bibles or pocket Testaments.

Have some one clearly recite the verse below. It might be a good idea to paste this verse in your Bible and also in the Bibles that are given to the soldiers.

Close with prayer and Hymn No. 27.

"Study it carefully, think of it prayerfully,
Deep in thy heart let its pure precepts dwell;
Slight not its history, ponder its mystery,
None can e'er prize it too fondly or well.
Accept the glad tidings, the warnings and chidings,
Found in the volume of heavenly lore;
With faith that's unfailing, and love all prevailing,
Trust in its promise of life evermore."

—*Selected.*

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Charles S. Bleam.)

No one can read the Bible thoughtfully, prayerfully, from Genesis to Revelation, without being convinced that it is in very truth the Word of God.

I. Internal Evidence.

1. *The Harmony.* This Book as history covers a period of thousands of years. And yet the prophecies of the Old Testament are borne out in the New Testament as though a great general dictating dispatches to the various parts of his army, which were being carried out immediately. The fact that thousands of years elapse between prophecy and fulfilment makes no difference in the faithfulness to detail with which the prophecies are fulfilled.

2. *The Simplicity.* The reader of the Bible must be impressed with the fact that the very simplicity with which the great events are recorded shows a godly honesty. Human historians gloss over the weaknesses of their heroes. Not so God's Word. In one sentence we read "David was a man after God's own heart." In another, of his unrightful sin for which Naaman rebuked him. There is no attempt anywhere to record only the bright side. Human efforts would not have produced a book so sublimely simple.

3. *Its Miraculous Preservation.* Where can we read a detailed account of the very dawn of creation, except in God's Word? Must the world not be impressed by the fact that here is a book in which the records of the very beginning of the world are preserved for us? Every time a new discovery by excavating expeditions adds another to the manifold evidences of the accuracy of God's Word, Christendom has reason to rejoice.

4. *Christ's Use of the Bible.* No more convincing evidence of the fact that the Bible is God's Word can be found than the fact that when Christ was upon the earth He used those portions which were already written in His arguments with His enemies. In the great contest with Satan the three temptations were met with just as many quotations from God's Word. Herein lies two proofs that it is God's Word: First, that Christ thus honored it, and second, that it was effective in defeating the tempter.

II. External Evidence.

Here we find the Bible at work. We see its transforming power among those to whom it is given. This power is too varied to admit of exhaustive treatment in the brief scope of this topic. But we will consider it in its power to convict, to enlighten, to strengthen and to comfort.

1. *Its Power to Convict.* Wherein lies the preacher's power? Is it in artful elocution? Is it in masterful English? Is it in flights of oratory? No. These may please dilettante. But they will never bring conviction to the heart of a hardened sinner. Christ said, "Preach the Gospel." He knew its power to bring conviction. And any honest preacher will recognize that he makes the greatest impression upon sinful hearts when using God's Word. It cannot be quoted too frequently nor too aptly.

A young man came to me several years ago and said, "I would like to arrange to come to your church and be baptized this Sunday." I planned as he wished and then out of curiosity asked him, "When did you reach this decision?" "Well," he said, "I attended church last winter" (it was several months previous) "and heard you quote God's Word where it says 'Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosover shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in Heaven.'" He then told me that for months that thought had kept ringing in his ears until he was driven to do what he knew he should have done long ago, confess and be baptized.

2. *To Strengthen.* When the sinner is convicted of sin and repents there is yet much to be done. The new life must be strengthened. The evidence of countless millions that the Bible has strengthened them to "hold fast" is sufficient in itself to prove it God's Word.

3. *To Enlighten.* How often Christians cry out, "Oh! if I only knew what is best to do." The Bible has enlightened so many in such an hour of trial that it is again proven to be God's Word.

4. *To Comfort.* The pastor in going to the heartbroken and the bereft has no other source of comfort so sure as God's Word. Never does a passage aptly quoted fail to bring "the peace of God which passeth all understanding."

III. Our Treatment of It.

Since God has given us His Word, let us beware how we treat it. Luther found the Bible the dynamic of the Reformation. But before it could act thus, it must be translated and *read.*

To neglect God's Word is both bad policy and a great sin.

Bible References.

Ps. 40:7; Isa. 34:16; Gal. 3:10; Heb. 6:5; II Tim. 3:15; Rom. 3:2; Eph. 6:17; Deut. 31:11-13; II Kings 23:2; Col. 4:16; Neh. 8:5, 6; Acts 17:11; Deut. 4:2, 12:32; Rev. 22:18, 19; Acts 13:27, 17:2, 18:24; Jno. 12:48; Rom. 2:16; II Cor. 4:2.

Intermediate and Junior Topics

AUGUST 25.

Saving Migrating Lutherans.

Jeremiah 33:9-14.

By Rev. C. P. Harry.

General Truth—Lutherans move from place to place; there are ways by which they may be kept in the church even though they move.

Point of Contact—Almost every one has moved. Some know how hard it is to find a new church to which to go after you have moved. There are very clear ways in which any one who moves may find his church. There are ways in which we can all help those who move to find their church and be at home in a new congregation.

The Lesson Developed—There are three parties in the moving: the person or family moving, the two pastors, and the two congregations—the old one and the new one.

The person or family moving should go to their old pastor and tell him that they are going to move and tell him where they are going to move. He will find out which is the most suitable Lutheran congregation in that place and then he will give a letter of transfer to the movers. He should also write to the pastor of the new congregation and give him the address of the family. He should also give the family the new pastor's address.

When you have moved, on the very first Sunday you should go to the new church and introduce yourself to the new pastor, giving him the letter of transfer, whether he has called on you or not and whether half the congregation shakes hands with you or not. When he tells you to do so, you will present yourself for formal reception into the congregation.

The Luther League should write to the membership committee or the president of the Luther League in the church to which the members are going and suggest a call and friendly reception in the church.

When you see new persons in church go up to them and invite them to Luther League, find out where they live and give the address to your pastor. Go to see them and make them welcome. That is the way the congregations can work together to save migrating Lutherans.

If you go away to school, tell your pastor where you are going. He will write to the university or student pastor. He in turn will come to see you or let you know where the Lutheran Church is. So that if we all are careful "migrating Lutherans need not be lost to the church."

Hints to Leaders—Have some one tell or show how to approach strangers. Have the pastor tell how to get and use a letter of transfer. Why should Lutherans stick to the Lutheran Church when they move?

SEPTEMBER 1.

Vacation Experiences and Their Lessons.

By Mrs. William Katz.

Scripture Lesson—Mark 6:30-32.

General Truth—In this lesson we have an account of the return of the Twelve Apostles. After Jesus had chosen his disciples and instructed them as to the meaning of His Kingdom, He sent them away, two by two, to go into the cities and towns, and tell of the Messiah for whom the Jews had been waiting for many centuries. The disciples have completed their task and returned to the Master, to give an account of their work.

Point of Contact—This is a very interesting insight into the life of Jesus among His disciples. He had given them a work to do for Him. He had given them power to do the work. The disciples had obeyed instructions, had relied upon their Leader, and had success. Now they return, full of enthusiasm, each one eager to tell of his experiences.

Lesson Development—When we read that there were so many people thronging about the Saviour and His disciples that they had not even time to eat, we feel that this was not a vacation like some people take. The disciples had been sent on a difficult mission, they had traveled on foot. The Master had commanded them to go on their journey without unnecessary provisions, without a purse or two coats. They were to tell of the Messiah, and to heal the sick, and cast out demons. They had labored, and were tired, and the Master realized this, and wanted to give them rest, a vacation. "Come," the Master said, "into a desert place, and rest a while." Not into the crowded towns and cities, but into a quiet place, where they might have an opportunity to talk about their work, to rest their bodies, and then return again to work. To many people today vacation means hard work. We sometimes work hard to have a good time. But we can learn from the Master how to take a vacation, to go to a quiet place and rest. A vacation, we can learn from this lesson, is not for the people who never word hard. It is, let us say, the filling of a sandwich, it must have the bread of hard work on either side of it. A vacation should be like this of the Master and His disciples—a rest after hard work, and a preparation for hard work.

Hints to Leaders—Use the Third Commandment to point out God's thoughtfulness for us in providing a day of rest. Practical question, "In how far should God be considered in planning for our vacation, and while on a vacation." (See Luke 8:14.)

SEPTEMBER 8.

The League Helping Church Attendance.

By Mrs. William Katz.

Scripture Lesson—Heb. 10:23-25.

General Truth—The Epistle to the Hebrews was written to the Jewish Christians. In the eleventh and twelfth chapter the wonderful faith of the Old Testament heroes is recalled, the followers of God who walked by faith and not by sight. The Christians are urged to take these Old Testament heroes as their example.

Point of Contact—The writer of the letter is urging these people to live up to their promise, and not backslide. The words can well be applied by each one of us Leaguers to ourselves, for we are not outsiders, but have all pledged ourselves to live after the commandments of our Saviour.

Lesson Development—The first call comes to us personally. We have taken something into our grip, which we must hold. When you are playing tennis you cannot hold the racket loosely in your hand, and expect to win the game. So this lesson exhorts us to hold fast to our profession of Christ, for if we do not then our faith will waver, and our aim at life will not be true, and without a true aim we cannot win.

The second call is one of consideration for others. We must think of the force of our example on our friends. Have you ever noticed that when one person makes a start the rest of the crowd usually follows? When you are tempted to stay away from church, just remember that we are urged to consider one another, and more than consider, we are to provoke. Provoke in this passage means to urge. "Come on boys" or "Come on girls," spoken by one of a group at church time, may have more influence in getting your companions to church service than the urging of your pastor.

The writer of this Epistle had seen the harm people were doing to themselves by staying away from church. These Jewish Christians are urged to keep up their church attendance. "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together," the writer says, and then he asks that they urge others to attend the church services. You all know the influence of a crowd, the group spirit. It would be a great thing if each League would be so faithful in church attendance that we might hear the remark made in our churches, "Oh, that is our Luther League crowd, they are always at services."

Hints to Leaders—Refer to Lesson on Vacation Experiences and point out that the disciples were sent out two by two, to strengthen each other; also refer to the fact that Christ worked with and through a group by means of the twelve disciples.

SEPTEMBER 15.

Moses, the Great Leader of Israel.

By Mrs. William Katz.

Scripture Lesson—Ex. 3:1-10.

General Truth—We have here the account of the calling of Moses, the great leader of the children of Israel. The Bible gives us a more extended account of the life of Moses than of any of the Old Testament heroes. Beginning the circumstances and dangers surrounding his infant days, and the rescue from the bulrushes by the daughter of Pharaoh, to the day of his death alone upon the mountain, of which the Bible says, "but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day," the story of Moses's life and work is full of interest.

Point of Contact—The life of Moses seems to have been one of ups and downs. He led the children of Israel triumphantly through the Red Sea, and then was oppressed and despondent because of their murmurings against him on account of lack of food in the wilderness. He went up into the mountain to receive the law from God. When he returned he found the children of Israel had set up the golden calf. He had moments of great faith and keen vision, and then often periods of discouragement. In a fit of anger he struck the rock, when God had commanded him to speak to the rock. For this he was not permitted to enter the promised land, but could only view it from the mountain top. It is because of this struggle of Moses with himself that makes his character appeal to us. He had a great work to do, a work which he felt was too big for him, and it was only when he relied upon God that he was a success.

Lesson Development—Moses had fled from Egypt after having slain an Egyptian who had struck one of the children of Israel. For forty years he lived the life of a shepherd. God was preparing him for a work. And at last, in God's good time, the call came to him to go back to Egypt, as the leader of the children of Israel. One man to array himself against the nation. "Who am I," Moses asked God, "that I should go unto Pharaoh," and he received the answer, "Certainly I will be with thee."

God had prepared him for his work, had given him his call, and promised to be with him. If you will read the story of Moses' leading of the children of Israel you will notice that when he relied upon God being with him he was successful. When he tried to work with his own powers only he was a failure. God works today in the same manner. He prepares leaders, and then sends them forward with His strength. He does not ask that we work for Him with our own powers, but in His might.

Hints to Leaders—The strength of Moses was not his own but God's, and he was a successful leader only when he worked with God's strength. Each Leaguer should be a leader, not by his own strength, but through God's power.

SEPTEMBER 22.

"One, Holy Christian Church."

By Mrs. William Katz.

Scripture Lesson—John 10:15 (R. V.)

General Truth—Our text is taken from the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Christ is trying to make clear the relationship between Himself and His followers. He uses as an illustration something which was very familiar to all who heard Him—the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep.

Point of Contact—Christ says, "I am the good shepherd; and I know mine own, and mine own know me, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." If we are asked to do something for a person, it makes a great difference to us whether or not we know that person. Suppose one of your companions would say to you, "John would like you to go over and help him this evening." If you know John well, you will likely say, "Oh, all right, I will help him." But if you do not know John, you are apt to say, "Oh, I am pretty busy myself, guess I cannot go this evening. Tell him to ask some one else."

The Lesson Developed—Christ says He knows His sheep, He knows us. But how well does He know us? "Even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father." Ah, that is a little different than the knowledge we have of our friends. No matter how close we get to our friends, our knowledge is never so intimate as is God's knowledge of us. God's knowledge of us is entire, He knows everything about us. He knows our thoughts, which our friends do not know. He knows us better than we know ourselves. But let us think. God is so wonderful, so great, so perfect, can He care for us when He knows us so well? Yes, He does, for He says that He lays down His life for His sheep. This is the proof that Christ gives to us that He is our shepherd. He laid down His life for us, and by His death He became our Saviour. And this is the basis of our Christian Church: Christ the Shepherd giving His life for His sheep. Christ knows each one of us, He knows our need of some one to bear our guilt, and He, as the Great Shepherd, has laid down His life for us. His Church is the great sheepfold, in which are gathered all the sheep of His flock.

Hints to Leaders—Hymn—"I Love Thy Zion, Lord."

SEPTEMBER 29.

The Bible, the Word of God.

By Mrs. William Katz.

Scripture Lesson—II Tim. 3:14-17.

General Truth—Our lesson is taken from the Second Epistle of Paul to one of his helpers, Timothy. Paul had been working for thirty-three years preaching to the Gentiles. His letters to his assistants contain frequent references to the happiness that he finds in serving the Master. There is one verse in this Epistle that is very interesting, as it shows the influence of home training. Paul mentions that he remembers the faith of Lois, the grandmother of Timothy, and the faith of Eunice, the mother of Timothy.

Point of Contact—The Bible is the Christian's textbook. When we undertake a study of any subject we must first of all have a textbook. The person who knows his textbook is the one who makes a success. And the successful person in any occupation keeps his textbook at hand, even after having mastered the subject. Many expert stenographers keep their textbook in their desks, and frequently refer to their first principles. So it is with our Bibles, they are our Textbooks for our spiritual life, and we should never outgrow them.

The Lesson Developed—Paul urges Timothy to continue in the things which he has learned. Paul mentions that from a child Timothy has known the Holy Scriptures. And then Paul gives, we may say, a recommendation for the Holy Scriptures. Just as a textbook will contain a preface, giving a description of the contents, so Paul in these few verses tells of the sources of the Scriptures, and the benefits that will result from their use.

First of all he says that the Scriptures are able to make Timothy wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. So this is a book which gives a wisdom greater than any other, because it is a wisdom for eternity.

Next Paul mentions the authority for this great Textbook. It is "given by inspiration of God." He proceeds to give a list of the benefits that will result from its use. It is "profitable,' he says, "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." "For doctrine," or teaching, that we may know in what we believe. "For reproof, for correction," that the errors of life may be shown to us, and we can give no excuse for sin. "For instruction in righteousness." The Bible has a specialty for righteousness. You may use other books for moral training, but you will not have the best unless you use the Bible. Finally, Paul gives the purpose for the use of the Scriptures, "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished with all good works." Right in every respect. Right in thought; right in words, right in actions. Right in relation to God and right in relation to companions.

Hints to Leaders—John 5:39. Hymns—"Lord Thy Word Abideth," "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word."

JUNIOR.

AUGUST 25.

Making Our Country, God's Country.

By Mrs. M. Haller Frey.

Scripture Lesson—Prov. 14:34.

General Truth—When we forget God, disaster is bound to follow. When a nation puts God in the background, ruin and sorrow and reproach will be the result.

Point of Contact—All around us we hear of doing our bit for our country, and each boy or girl can help in some way if they will, but don't forget that the biggest bit to be done lies in each heart—a resolve to grow up to be a good citizen of our country, upright and true as steel with a firm determination to do your bit toward making our country really God's country.

Lesson—"Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." It is well for us to pause in these troublous times to ask ourselves whether sin has not brought all this confusion and disquiet upon the nations at war.

How we love our country, her heroes and her traditions, her great schools and her achievements, freedom to worship as we please and one God in whose sight all men are equal. Who does not love and honor the stars and stripes of our dear old flag, which dishonor has never stained and under whose folds we are protected?

But there is another aspect to all this thrill and stirring of our emotions when we speak of our country. What of the future? All these material things will pass away sometimes and so we, the people of this nation, must build a foundation which will outlast all things. Every boy and girl may have a share in the building which is going on day by day. The material we are using are free to all, sincerity and faith, strong character, good judgment, clean morals and unwavering faith in the great Master Builder, Jesus Christ. This is the only way that our country may be God's country.

Hints—Essays on "True Patriotism." Verbal answers to "What Are Some of the Blessings Our Country Enjoys?"

Poster—American flag, church, homes, hospital, library, Statue of Liberty on card, below print "This flag of our country invites you to see, how we can make our country God's country," below the time of meeting.

Invitation—Small white correspondence cards with flag seals pasted at top—invitation written in red and blue.

Have the children write short essays on the history of our country, or how to make our country better—give some recognition for the best.

SEPTEMBER 1.

Missionary Topic—School Bells Around the World.

By Mrs. E. C. Cronk.

Bible Lesson—Matt. 28:19-20. Emphasize the word teach as part of the great commission and call for other passages which tell that Jesus

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was a teacher and that He sent His disciples forth to teach.

Suggestions for Leader's Talk—In September the school bells begin to ring, not only in America but all around the world. Some of the school bells are drums and some of them are bugles, but they call the children to school—the little brown children in India, the little black children in Africa, the Indian children, and all the others. The school bells are ringing in many lands because missionaries have obeyed our Saviour's command to teach all nations.

Assign to different members topics for papers or talks. Only a few facts on these topics can be given here.

When the Teacher Says "Be Noisy"—In China all the children study aloud. If they get too quiet the teacher touches them up with a long rod so they will make more noise. If they are quiet he thinks they must be in mischief. They must memorize all their lesson. Many Chinese students can recite the entire New Testament and they do not think it a hard task to learn one of the Gospels. When they recite their lessons they turn their backs to the teacher.

School Bells in Africa—The school bells in Africa are drums. The children know just what the different drum beats mean. In Liberia where our mission is there is a heathen school for boys called the Devil Bush. The schoolmaster is called the Devil Doctor. The boys there are not taught to read or to write, but are taught many wicked things and many forms of witchcraft. Our missionaries have established Christian schools in Africa in which the boys and girls are taught to read and write. The girls are taught to sew and cook and wash and iron, while the boys learn carpentry and other trades. Best of all they are taught about the Lord Jesus Christ and the way of salvation.

Kindergartens in Japan—Thirty-three years ago the first kindergarten was opened in Japan. Now there are one hundred and eighty, scattered all over the Empire, with eight thousand Japanese tots in attendance. We have four Lutheran kindergartens in Japan. The dear little ones go from these kindergartens into heathen homes. Their parents are amazed to hear them say: "Oh, no, I'm not afraid in the dark any more because my heavenly Father is with me." They see them bow their little heads as they say: "Father, we thank Thee for our food." Many parents who would never come to our churches are led there by their children who go to our kindergartens.

Invite the pastor or some church officer to make a ten minute talk on "Our Mission Schools."

Service—Some of our Leagues should support a scholar in one of our mission schools. Leaders should write Mission Board Secretaries for definite information about this.

SEPTEMBER 8.

Faithfulness in Work.

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—Eccles. 9:10.

General Truth—God never goes to the lazy or idle when He needs men for His service. When God wants a worker He calls a worker. When He wants work done He goes to those who already are at work.

Point of Contact—A little girl, asked to sew a button on her grandfather's coat, did it unwillingly and carelessly, thinking the stitches on the wrong side would not show, but when the grandfather had his picture taken his coat lapel turned back and the stitches showed in the picture. The little girl was very sorry, and determined that after that she would do her work right.

The Story—Once there was a very great and wise King of the Jews, whose name was Solomon, and who was a son of the good King David. Besides doing many good things for his kingdom, such as erecting public buildings, making good roads, building a water system for Jerusalem, erecting the Temple and building up the commercial trade, he wrote books, containing many wise and beautiful sayings. One of these books is called "Ecclesiastes, or The Preacher," and it is from that book that our lesson is taken today.

It was necessary in Solomon's time, just as it is today, to urge people to be faithful in their work. Solomon says we must work now, for after we die there will be no time nor opportunity to work, and God has so much work for His people to do that we must not get tired or lazy, but just keep on working with all our might. Some people never find any work to do. They do not look for it, but it is all about us. We should do our work, our home tasks and our school work and our church work with all our might. If boys and girls do not work when they are young they will not like to work when they grow up, and whoever amounts to anything who does not work?

Then there is the Lord's work, and oh, how hard we should work at that so as to do all we can while we live here in this world. There are so many orphans to be cared for; so many crippled and blind children; so many old folks to be given homes; so many poor people to be helped; so many strangers among us; so many boys and girls and young men and women going wrong because no one is looking after them and telling them about Jesus, and so many heathen who have not yet heard about Christ. Oh, how much of our time and our money we ought t give to these. So, whatever we find to do, let us do it with our might. Let us never say, when asked to do church work, that we do not have time.

To the Leader—Have ten Juniors answer the following question concerning the persons mentioned below: "What was ——— doing when the Lord called him?"

Moses was busy with his flocks at Horeb. Ex., 3rd chap.

Saul was busy searching for his father's lost beasts. I Sam., 9th chap.

David was busy caring for his father's sheep. I Sam. 16:11-12.

Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen. I Kings 19:19.

Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's cup. Neh. 2:1.

Amos was busy following the flocks. Amos 1:1.

Peter and Andrew were casting their net into the sea. Matt. 4:18-19.

James and John were busy mending their nets. Matt. 4:21.

Matthew was busy collecting the taxes. Matt. 9:9.

Saul (or Paul) was busy persecuting the friends of Jesus. Acts 9:1-6.

SEPTEMBER 15.

Who Were the People of Samaria?

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—John 4:39-42.

General Truth—God finds something good in even the lowliest, and can save even the most wretched outcast. Jesus thought it worth while to teach the woman of Samaria the way of life, and won many converts among the people of Samaria through this woman.

Point of Contact—Jesus taught that even

among the Samaritans there were kindhearted people—for, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan was the only one who showed a kindness to the afflicted man. We should never look down on or despise any of God's people.

The Story—The people of Samaria, called "Samaritans," were a peculiar people. After the children of Israel had been carried into captivity in Babylon a few people remained in the cities of Samaria. Later the King of Assyria brought men from Babylon and placed them in the cities of Samaria, instead of the children of Israel, and they dwelt there. These people, of course, were heathen, and worshipped idols. By and by the King of Assyria sent one of the captive priests over from Babylon to Samaria to teach these people "How to fear the Lord." The priest came and tried to teach them, and they said they "feared the Lord" but they continued to worship their idols and taught their children and their children's children to worship idols.

After the Jews returned from captivity, the Samaritans wanted to help them to rebuild the Temple, but the Jews refused to allow them to help, and so they became open enemies of the Jews, and from that time on they did everything they could to annoy them. The Jews were not kind to them either. They hated and despised them, and had no dealings with them.

When Jesus was here in this world, as He traveled up and down the country, he noticed these Samaritans and was sorry for them. One day He met the Samaritan woman, about whom we read in our lesson, at the well, and He began to talk with her, and told her all about her life, and then He told her about the True God and how to worship Him. She went and told her friends that she had met a man that told her of everything she ever did, and many of her friends believed on Jesus.

To Leader—Teach the children the following:

We know so little of the hearts
That everywhere 'round us beat;
So little of the inner lives
Of those whom day by day we greet;
Oh, it behooves us one and all
Gently to deal with those we meet.

SEPTEMBER 22.

Jesus' Teaching Concerning the Law.

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—Matt. 5:17.

General Truth—Jesus never meant to tear down the laws which God had given to the Jews. He came to fulfil all that was implied in those laws concerning sacrifices, feasts and festivals. He added to the Jewish laws another Law—Love your fellowmen. We are still subject to God's laws—the Ten Commandments—but if we love Jesus truly it will be no hardship on us to try to keep those laws. God says, "My Commandments are not grievous."

Point of Contact—If we love God we will try to please Him in everything, and we will love our neighbors and will try to do them good. We will visit the sick and the sorrowing and comfort them; we will look after the strangers and bring them into the church; we will give gifts to the poor and the fatherless; we will help send missionaries to heathen lands to preach Christ, and we will be kind and gentle to all our friends and companions, and, what is usually the hardest thing to do, we will love our enemies.

The Story—Jesus had been going about all Galilee teaching the people His Gospel and healing all manner of sickness, and his fame had gone through all the land, so that great multitudes of people followed Him from place to place; and seeing the great multitude, He went up into a mountain and sat down and began to teach the people; and this we call "The Sermon on the Mount," from which our text is taken. He taught them the words which we call "The Beatitudes" or the "Blesseds," and then He went on and told them that they were the light of the world, and that they should let their light shine so that men seeing their good works would glorify God. And then, because this teaching was so different from that which the Scribes and Pharisees taught, He said He had not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it.

All the prophets who had lived before Christ had foretold the coming of a Christ, the Messiah, who would save the people, and now Jesus tells them that He has come to fulfil those prophecies. And all the laws which God had given the Israelites many years before are now to be fulfilled. God had given them many laws concerning sacrifices, fast days and feasts, but now that Jesus had come all these things were fulfilled; He was going to offer up the Great Sacrifice; He was going to give up His life once for all for the sins of the people, and so they would not need to offer up the sacrifices of the Temple any more, and the old feast days and festivals would give way to other festivals and feast days which would be held in Jesus' honor.

So the laws were not to be destroyed, but merely fulfilled. The Jewish teachers held up the moral law as a means of salvation; but Jesus said there are two great Commandments—on these hang all the law and the prophets; one is that we love God with all our hearts, and the other that we love our neighbor as ourselves.

The Jewish law permitted a man to do an injury to one who had injured him. Jesus said we must return good for evil. The Scribes and Pharisees taught the Jews to hate all who were not of their kind or religion. Jesus said: "Love your enemies and pray for them that despitefully use you." The Pharisees had corrupted the law of God, and Jesus said He had come, not to set the law aside, but to show it as a rule of righteousness. If we love God we will keep His Commandments.

To the Leader. Following are Scripture references touching on laws, which the Juniors might look up and read:

LAW—Made for lawless. (I Tim. 1:8-10.) To be obeyed. (Matt. 2:21; Luke 20:22-25.)

Of God. (Ps. 119:1-8.) Holy. (Rom. 7:12.) Perfect. (Ps. 19:7-9; Jas. 1:25.) Spiritual. (Rom. 7:14.) To be obeyed. (I Jno. 5:3.)

Fulfilled by Christ. (Matt. 5:17; Acts 6:14; Rom. 10:3-4; Acts 13:39; Eph. 2:15.)

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